

Storm looms over plan for new teachers

Baker aims to recruit retired executives

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The Government is planning radical changes in teacher training as the next stage of its programme to reform the education system.

Redundant executives, retired police officers and former miners are among those who will be encouraged to train as teachers under proposals designed to bring more mature people into the profession and equip it with a more dynamic, managerial image.

The plans, which seem certain to be opposed by the teaching unions, are being considered by ministers who fear that, unless teacher training is improved, the ambitious redrawing of the system through Mr Kenneth Baker's

Education Reform Bill, and their attempts to make it more relevant to a technology-based society, will fail.

Ministers are convinced that, with just under 100 schools already interested in opting out under the terms of legislation now before Parliament and a growing consensus on the need for a core curriculum, now is the time to press ahead with the next stage and bring far-reaching changes to teacher training.

They want to encourage mature people to enter the profession and to switch still further the emphasis during teacher training from theoretical to practical work.

The Government's aim is to rid the profession of its donkey image and replace it with a more dynamic managerial ethos aimed at equipping school children and future generations with the skills needed for an increasingly tough, competitive technological and scientific future.

It believes that men and women who have worked in the public services or manu-

classes and the Open University.

Ministers think that the days when teaching was considered everyone's "second best" alternative or an easy option are over and that the quality of young people now in colleges has rarely been higher. However, they still want greater emphasis in the classrooms on the work ethic rather than purely academic subjects. It is for this reason that they are anxious to encourage student teachers to spend a greater period in the classroom rather than in college learning theory.

Under the post graduate certificate of education, 15 weeks is spent on school experience and under the four-year bachelor of education just over 50 per cent is spent on academic study with the remainder on practical teaching experience.

The number of students entering teacher training courses this year was, at 1,960, 13 per cent higher than in 1986 with recruitment to primary training exceeding its target by 3 per cent.

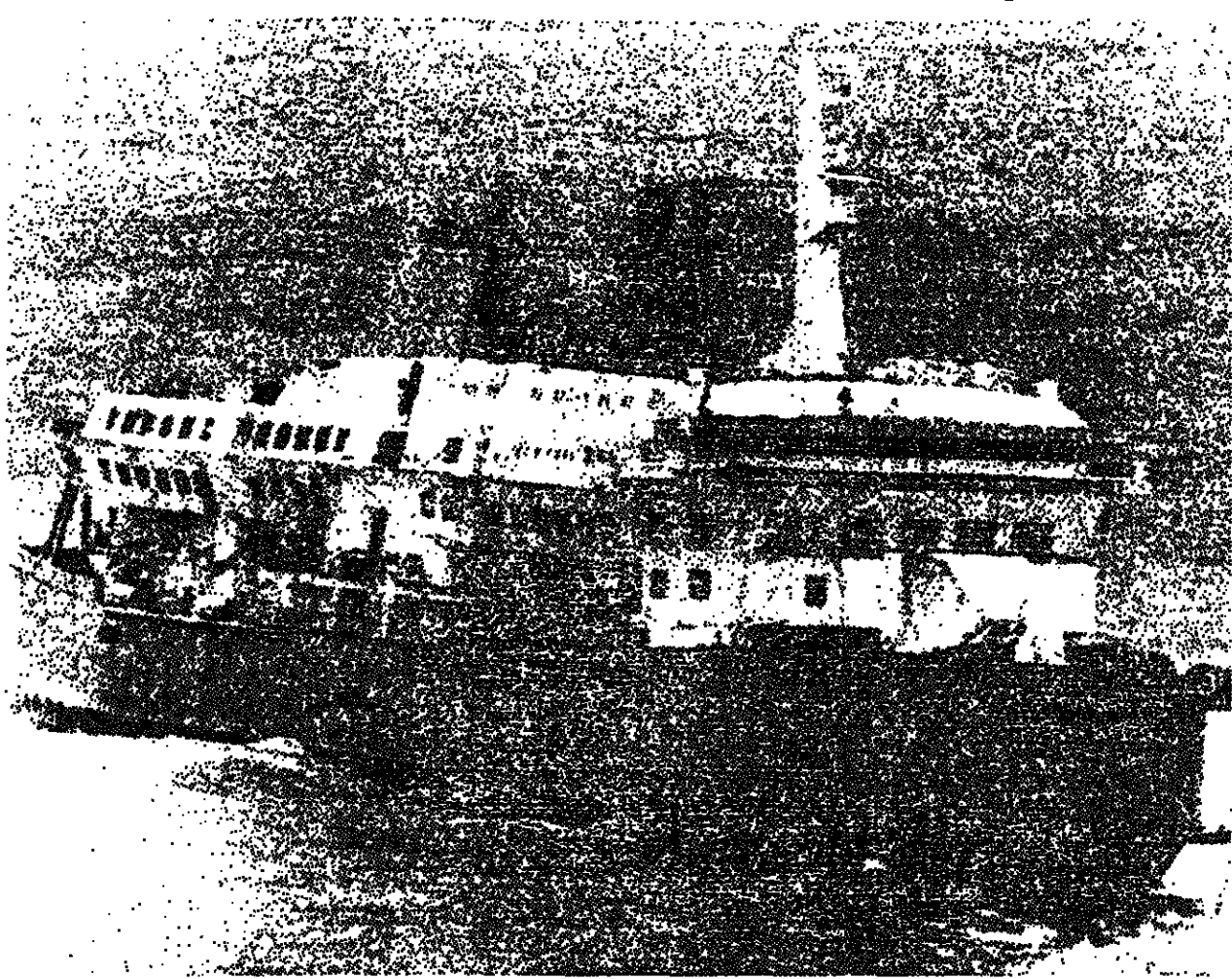
The Government is encouraging distance learning, through the Open University and correspondence courses, to get more maths and physics teachers.

Last night, Mr Jack Straw, Labour's chief education spokesman, said that any move to raise the morale of teachers, including improved training, would be welcomed, but he denounced the ideas being put forward in government quarters as "gimmicky" and "half-baked". He doubted whether they would improve standards.

"The greatest challenge facing education policy makers is to end the demoralization in teaching and to turn it into a profession which is held in the same high regard as in other countries. If the Government at last recognizes that after eight years of denigrating teachers that is progress."

"But it can only happen if the rewards for teachers are improved and I suspect that that is what the Government will duck. While the idea of recruiting people in mid-career is sensible as far as it goes it will not happen unless there are better rewards and teaching is made a more attractive proposition."

Ill-fated Herald in trouble again



The ill-fated Herald of Free Enterprise wallowing in rough seas in the Indian Ocean off the coast of South Africa yesterday after breaking its tow-line in gale-force winds. The former cross-Channel ferry, which capsized outside Zeebrugge harbour on March 6 with the loss of 193 lives, had been on its way to a shipbreakers' yard in Taiwan (Michael Horasby writes from Johannesburg).

Now renamed the Flushing Range, the battered hulk of the ship and another vessel, the Gaelic Ferry, were being towed by a German tug when the tow-line snapped on Sunday. Captain G.R. Nobbe, the master of the tug, the Marksturm, was reported yesterday to be hoping to reconnect the tow-line with the help of another tug provided by a Cape Town-based salvage company, Pentow Marine.

A company spokesman, Mr John Armstrong, said that about 9 am yesterday the two ships, with nobody on board, were drifting parallel to the shore about 35 nautical miles south-east of Cape St Francis, which lies on the southern Cape coast. "If the vessels start driving into the beach, we may have to act immediately, but if there is no urgency, we can wait for calmer weather," he said.

Bishop to ban gays in clergy

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs
Correspondent

The Bishop of Ripon, the Rt Rev David Young, has become the first Church of England bishop to announce that he intends to bar practising homosexuals from the ministry in his diocese.

In a statement prepared for his diocesan synod, which is summarized in the latest edition of the Ripon diocesan newsletter, the bishop says that while "homosexual orientation" is not a bar to ordination or the exercise of ministry, in future active homosexuality will be.

That follows a debate in the General Synod in November which carried a motion stating that homosexual activity "fell short of the Christian ideal". An amendment was also carried, which called on practising homosexuals to repent.

A further amendment, asking the bishops to exercise "appropriate discipline" in the light of that call to repentance, was defeated after being opposed by most bishops present, though some have since said they felt it was unnecessary rather than wrong.

The Bishop of Ripon's declaration of policy will be widely taken as indicating that a more general tightening-up is gradually happening throughout the church in the light of the synod's resolution, in spite of the defeat of that "disciplinary" amendment.

It is understood that there is now likely to be pressure within the General Synod system of boards and committees to apply such a policy as that now in force in Ripon to other areas of the church. The Advisory Council for the Church's Ministry, which plays a key role in the selection of candidates for ordination, will face demands that it should adopt such a policy.

The Bishop of Ripon states in his newsletter: "Homosexual orientation is no bar to ordination: in this diocese not to the giving of the bishops' licence. Those who are known to be involved in homosexual practice will not be sponsored by this diocese for training for ordination nor will they be ordained in this diocese."

"Similarly, those who are already ordained and who are known to be involved in homosexual practice will not be offered posts in this diocese. I should also make it clear that this is a matter which so far has hardly affected this diocese during my 10 years as bishop."

The Rev David Holloway, vicar of Jesmond, Newcastle, who proposed the resolution calling for the disciplining of practising homosexual clergy

Continued on page 16, col 8

Briton to die for wife killing

By Michael McCarthy

A British language lecturer was sentenced to death in Burma yesterday after being convicted of abetting the murder of his wife. Andrew Kirkpatrick will today enter an appeal against the sentence.

Kirkpatrick, aged 36, was convicted before Christmas by the court at Insein, near Rangoon, of being an accomplice in the murder of his wife, Lynn, a Singapore Chinese. He had pleaded not guilty and strenuously protested his innocence.

Mrs Kirkpatrick was found dead in the couple's burnt-out Rangoon home in 1986. The couple's cook allegedly confessed that he had suffocated Mrs Kirkpatrick with pillows on Kirkpatrick's orders and then set fire to the house to destroy the evidence.

He was convicted of murder and also sentenced to death yesterday.

Kirkpatrick, who is now in prison in Insein, made no comment on the sentence but his lawyer, Mr Maung Maung Oyi, said an appeal would be entered today. The appeal process is likely to take between three and four months.



Mr Baker: Continuing his educational shake-up.

facturing industries can give much to school children, particularly an awareness of the need to fit into large organizations and the importance of discipline and sense of responsibility.

It sees these people as being able to counteract the growing collapse of parental discipline at home and the anything goes culture stimulated by attitudes in the 1960s and 1970s.

The Government believes that they should be brought into primary schools, where they would work under supervision, as quickly as possible while achieving teaching qualifications through correspondence courses, night

Dollar hits post-war low

New plunge in shares feared

By John Bell, City Editor

Share prices and the dollar are expected to fall sharply when London financial markets resume business today after the Christmas break.

Currency dealers will be standing by their telephones to deal with a rush of selling orders for the dollar which has been a battering since London markets closed on Christmas Eve.

In New York last night the US currency was trading at \$1.8605 against the pound, compared with a closing level of \$1.8330 when London dealings ended on Thursday.

Foreign exchange markets in New York reported that the dollar was swamped by a wave of selling from overseas yesterday. "Speculators came out of the woodwork and hit the dollar," said one market man.

They were taking their lead from the Tokyo markets where dealers have become deeply pessimistic about the willingness of the US authorities to support their currency. In thin trading, the dollar fell

to fresh post-war lows against both the yen and the mark. The central banks of both Japan and West Germany were actively intervening in currency markets in order to stabilize the dollar which was weak in Frankfurt, Paris and Zurich.

Wall Street responded to the currency upheavals in the Far East with sharp falls in share prices as soon as trading commenced. The Dow Jones industrial average shed 50 points immediately and in mid-session was almost 70 points down at 1929.54.

London's share dealers will mark prices sharply lower in the wake of the falls on Wall Street. Shares of companies with large US operations and those whose trade is sensitive to dollar exchange rates will be the worst hit.

In the United States, Mr Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said that any further decline or excessive fluctuation in the dollar could be counterproductive. Mr Fitzwater made his com-

ment as President Reagan was on holiday in California. "The United States wants to see stability in the dollar," he added.

The world's financial community is still reeling from the shock of the stock

European reaction 17
Wall Street 18

markets crash which began on "Black Monday" in mid-October.

The main concern over the current nervousness in the Far East is that it may lead to a further crisis of confidence and a second leg to the bear market.

Despite the thin trading in Tokyo there are some market authorities who believe that the dollar's Christmas collapse is merely the start of a sizeable further fall.

According to a survey carried out yesterday by Reuters, the dollar may slide as low as Y110, a further fall of around Y13, during next year.

Dealers cited Washington's failure to cut its trade and budget deficits. "For the time being there is no reason to buy dollars," said one Japanese bank official.

Dr Henry Kaufman, a widely-followed Wall Street analyst, was also quoted yesterday as warning of more financial squalls next year. Dr Kaufman, the senior economist of Salomon Brothers, the leading securities house, said "the coming year promises an environment as volatile as that in 1987. The element of financial crisis that pervaded world financial markets in October 1987 threatens to re-emerge in 1988."

The specific trigger for this new financial upheaval is widespread disappointment with last week's statement from the finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven countries. The statement pledged the seven countries to intensify economic policy co-ordination but it did not specify any new measures.

Austin soars

Austin Rover's car output in 1987 is likely to be the highest since 1979, with 468,200 cars and vans built, 14.6 per cent up on last year. Page 17

Forging ahead

Liverpool enter the new year with a record run of 21 League games without defeat and a 10-point lead in the championship after beating Newcastle United 4-0. Page 26

Calcutta row

The West Indies cricket captain, Vivian Richards, was involved in a dispute with an Indian umpire in the Calcutta Test yesterday. Page 22

Portfolio

There is £4,000 to be won in The Times Portfolio Gold competition, which resumes today after the Bank holiday. Portfolio list, page 21.

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War of words as Afghans backtrack on Khost claim

By Michael Binyon in Washington and Andrew McEwen in London

As the Afghan authorities yesterday backtracked from their claims that they had relieved the besieged city of Khost, a war of words broke out between Washington and Moscow over the two superpowers' involvement on opposite sides of the campaign.

Tass, responding to earlier comments made by President Reagan, accused him of "hypocrisy" and claimed that 50 foreign advisers were aiding Mujahidin forces surrounding the town. It claimed that an American adviser was killed while fighting alongside 1,500 rebels who died or were injured in heavy fighting.

The US State Department immediately categorically denied that there were any American government advisers.

At the same time Western

diplomats pointed to hypocrisy on Moscow's part, in that the Soviet people have not been told that thousands of their troops are aiding Afghan soldiers in the fight for Khost.

On Sunday President Reagan urged Moscow to

In a letter to *The Times* today, the Soviet Ambassador to Britain, Mr Leonid Zamyatin, implicitly blames Western aid to the Mujahidin for the delay in withdrawing Soviet troops from Afghanistan. He also implies that an increasing supply of British-made Blowpipe missiles to the rebels has impaired prospects for a political settlement. Page 9

withdraw its troops and called for action to end the conflict. But Tass said that by supplying Muslim rebels with Stinger missiles, used to shoot down civilian planes, Washington was increasing the conflict.

"In the light of such action, does not the appeal to make 1988 the year of action sound hypocritical in the mouth of the American President?" it asked.

A relief column of Soviet and Afghan troops, backed by tanks and airpower, has been trying for three weeks to force its way through to the beleaguered town near the Pakistani border. Both sides have suffered heavy losses in fierce fighting.

Mr Mohammed Nabi Azimi, the Defence Minister, was quoted yesterday by Tass as saying that the troops were five miles from Khost.

This implicitly contradicted Kabul Radio, which on Sunday quoted Tribal Affairs Minister Mr Sulaiman Laeq as claiming that the 80-mile highway from Garder to Khost was open for normal

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Bar chairman to seek pay review

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The new chairman of the Bar is to press for an independent review body to advise the Government on pay for lawyers doing legal aid work.

Mr Robert Johnson, QC, who takes over as chairman from Mr Peter Scott, QC, on Friday, is making the creation



Mr Johnson: Pay review is top priority.

of such a body his first priority.

He has already stated publicly that the Bar will not be bound by proposals that might involve the dismantling of its restrictive practices.

The Bar would oppose the committee studying the future of the legal profession if it recommended granting solicitors some advocacy rights in the higher courts.

Mr Johnson said that an advisory body made up of barristers, solicitors and officials from the Lord Chancellor's Department would be the nearest thing possible to a Top Salaries Review Body for the legal profession. It would help to avoid confrontation with the Government.

The issue is one of several facing Mr Johnson, aged 54, as he takes over as chairman at

Continued on page 16, col 8

Europe clamps down on unruly British tourists

By Andrew McEwen
Diplomatic Correspondent

As millions of Britons pore over their holiday brochures this week, more and more foreign doors are being closed to them in 1988.

On the day after the Foreign Office published a report criticizing the behaviour of Britons abroad, *The Times* uncovered a well of unhappiness among ministers of tourism, who complained about rowdy, rude, low-spending Britons on bargain-basement package tours.

Increasingly, destinations favoured by those with least to spend are throwing up shutters, clamping down on tour operators, and looking for a sterner attitude by their police.

Mr Tim Eggar, the Foreign Office

Under-Secretary of State, found four categories to describe the worst of British tourists: the scrounger, the freeloader, the hooligan and the comedian.

He looked at the problem from the viewpoint of irritated British consuls, but his words must have struck a chord with Mr Nicos Skoulas, Minister of Tourism in Athens.

He is understood to feel that as many as one third of the 1.98 million Britons who visited Greece this year were in the downmarket category. It is no secret in Athens that he thinks they are more trouble than they are worth.

One Greek official said yesterday: "There is no doubt that some British tourists create problems wherever they go. The mix of heat and cheap

drink here seems to make them rowdier than other nationalities."

Mr Skoulas is expected to begin enforcing legislation under which charter operators are required to sell accommodation with plane seats.

Tourists without a convincing address to go to could be turned back in future. Cyprus, where 300,000 Britons spend their holidays, has refused to grant applications to operate tours from Heathrow to Larnaca, partly to avoid similar problems. Although tour operators are permitted to fly from other British cities, they are obliged to sell accommodation with the tickets.

Portugal, the poorest country in the EEC with the oldest historical links with Britain, might be thought the last place to put up the shutters. But now

tourism authorities in the Algarve have said they want fewer Britons and more Germans, Swiss, Belgians, Dutch and Canadians.

British tourists occupy more than 60 per cent of the holiday accommodation, but after a significant increase in cases of drunken hooliganism last summer a mood of "enough is enough" is taking hold.

In the Seychelles, Mr Eamon Kelly, Director of Tourism, heard Mr Eggar's remarks with the satisfied thought that only the better-heeled Britons were likely to visit his shores.

Partly to maintain an upmarket image, the Seychelles no longer allows charter flights to land. Even the relatively orderly Germans and Swiss, who operated charter flights until 18 months ago, have been stopped.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Change of blood 'cuts heart risks'

Doctors are to investigate the possibility of periodically changing the blood of people at high risk of heart disease. The idea that cholesterol and unwanted harmful fats might be reduced by circulating the blood through a filtering machine is to be studied by medical research groups in Britain, the United States, Russia, Japan and Europe.

British tests of the method, known as apheresis, are being organized by Professor James Shepherd, of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, with a £165,000 grant from the British Heart Foundation.

The basic defect in both coronary heart disease and stroke is the narrowing of arteries, or atherosclerosis, by the accumulation of fatty deposits in their lining. Professor Shepherd's group will explore the degree to which clogged blood vessels can be restored to a healthier state after filtering out cholesterol and fats.

Wire trap Couple charged for hunt

Hunt saboteurs who set up a trip wire across a bridlepath at a meet in Oxfordshire yesterday were described as irresponsible by police.

Hunters had met at Peppard Common, near Henley-on-Thames, when three women protesters began to blow bugs and excite the hounds.

The women ran into the 300-strong crowd which had come to the meet, held by the Garth and South Berkshire Hunt.

Officers then found the wire which was stretched between two trees.

Asbestos paint fear

Sales to the public of paint containing asbestos will not be prevented by proposed government regulations because products will still be available at builders' merchants, the Consumers' Association says today.

The association chairman, Mrs Rachel Waterhouse, said: "An exemption for business use cannot possibly prevent their being sold for non-trade use through trade outlets."

She has written to the Department of Trade and Industry stating that there are strong grounds for banning the products. The regulations would ban retail sales of decorative paint finishes containing asbestos because, according to the department, they "pose a considerable hazard to the DIY enthusiast if not handled correctly."

Dive into unknown Test tube message

An international team of 18 cave divers, including four Britons, set out yesterday on a five-week trip to explore the world's largest underground river, the Tisza in south-east China.

The team has been invited by Chinese scientists who are anxious to discover the route of the river through Guangxi Province in their quest to develop hydro-electric power and irrigation.

The Britons are Mr Rob Parker, from Bristol, Mr Geoff Crossley, from Leeds, and Mr Steve Jones, of Carmarthen.

John Astor dies at 64

Mr John Astor, Conservative MP for Newbury from 1964 to 1974 and son of a former proprietor of *The Times*, has died at his Berkshire home, aged 64, his family announced yesterday.

He was third son of the first Lord Astor of Hever, and was a farmer at Inkpen, near Newbury. His father acquired *The Times* from Lord Northcliffe in the 1920s and owned it until its sale to the Thomson Organization in 1966.

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Reformers opposed to tagging

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

The Howard League yesterday called on the Government to abandon any debate about using the American system of electronic tagging to keep track of young offenders rather than send them to prison.

Ms Frances Crook, director of the prison reform group, said the American experience suggested courts using tagging only for minor offenders, often as part of a probation programme, and the number of offenders sent to prison had not diminished.

She was speaking as Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, described the idea of tagging for offenders in the 17 to 21-year age group in a speech to a Conservative organization.

Any decision on the use of tagging is not likely to be made by the Home Office until late winter or early spring but Ms Crook said ministers should opt for widening a scheme started with the help of Mr Patten himself at the Department of Health.

The scheme, which deals with offenders up to the age of 17, offers local courses aimed at converting the offender from crime by therapy and self analysis.

Ms Crook said that in the US tagging had not saved money and it could do so only if it was used as part of an early release scheme.

Tagging would be used by courts only for minor offenders who might otherwise have simply been fined, she said.

'Stalinist' approach to science

By Sarah Thompson
Education Reporter

The Government is treating scientific research in the manner of Stalinist Russia, according to a pamphlet published today by the left-leaning Education Reform Group.

Professor Tony Becker, professor of education at Sussex University, and Professor Maurice Kogan, professor of government and social administration at Brunel University, argue that the Government's plans, outlined by the Advisory Board to the Research Councils earlier this year, to concentrate university research in a select band of institutions will stifle competition between academics in a way counter to the Thatcherite ethic.

In "Calling Britain's Universities to Account", they say the advisory board's emphasis on weighing likely benefits of specific research proposals against cost will promote "safe" ventures and "will presuppose that the funding managers who decide national priorities are more adept at picking winners than anybody else (the economy of Stalinist Russia was founded on the same philosophy)".

The proposed three-tier system of universities, whereby some would be stripped of all research facilities, will cut the competitive instinct, they say.

The authors argue that the proposals for universities and polytechnics in the new Education Reform Bill do not fit in with the Government's attitude to schools, which are being opened up to the initiatives of parents and teachers.

"A more organic strategy of development ought to recommend itself to a Government that believes in strength of competition."

Calling Britain's Universities to Account (Education Reform Group, 48 Dulcan Terrace, London N1 8AL, £1.95).

Cash shortage threatens aircraft safety sensors

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

An invention to reduce the risk of aircraft collisions which won an engineer an award is in danger of being abandoned for lack of money.

Mr David Morton has devised a system, called Tripwire, for constantly monitoring all movements of aircraft on the runways and taxiways of an airport.

The equipment has worked successfully in the laboratory and in field tests at a local authority airport in Scotland. Mr Morton, from Crossford, Fifeshire, a former RAF electronics specialist, was first prompted to consider a new method after the collision of two airliners on the ground at Madrid airport four

years ago. Ninety-three people died.

He says he found subsequently that the civil aviation safety authorities in Europe and the United States investigate 15 to 20 serious incidents a year of near collisions in ground movements.

His eventual idea for reducing the risk of accident was backed two years ago by a £10,000 prize from the Glenrothes Development Corporation, in a scheme to encourage aviation and new technology-based industrial projects. He borrowed a further £60,000 to develop the essential computer software and to build the prototype equipment.

The Tripwire system consists of a network of sensor stations along the

edge of taxiways, which are in effect electronic traffic lights.

The sensors, which are linked to a computer in the control tower, transmit an infra-red beam that identifies the position of an aircraft passing on the ground.

When this information is flashed to the control tower, an instant computer analysis identifies the aircraft and shows if it has taken a wrong turning or is moving against red lights. Air traffic controllers are given an audible and visual alarm, which includes a description and the call sign of the aircraft at fault.

Only the big airports have automated ground movement control

schemes based on radar. They are about three times as expensive as the proposed Tripwire installations.

Mr Morton said: "Radar on its own does not solve the problem. As there have been no alarms or means of instant identification of individual aircraft on standard ground movement radar, the system is only as effective as the operator."

Ground movement radar is fitted at Heathrow. Yet recently an executive aircraft nearly collided with a British Airways commercial flight when the executive plane ignored a red light and taxied in the wrong direction.

However, unless Mr Morton

finds support for his system, the next stage of development of Tripwire, with a full-scale installation at an airport for a six-month trial, will be abandoned.

One of the stumbling blocks he has met is that his invention falls outside the normal classification of equipment of his two most influential potential customers. At the large airports the Civil Aviation Authority provides the services for ground navigation systems, while the British Airports Authority buys airport equipment aids for baggage and passenger handling.

Mr Morton says the new device lies somewhere between the two.

Party rallies to defend the leadership of Kinnock

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Labour MPs from all factions yesterday defended Mr Neil Kinnock's leadership since the general election defeat.

In the face of an attack on him by Mr David Warburton, principal national officer of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, (GMB), Britain's second largest, MPs spoke about what they saw as inaccurate and ill-timed criticism.

Mr Warburton, in a newsletter produced by Forward Labour, distributed to centre and right wing trade union leaders, accused Mr Kinnock of lethargy and "basking in the satisfaction of a new image".

The onslaught was quickly disowned by Mr John Edmonds, the general secretary of the GMB, and Mr Warburton's superior.

However, Labour leadership sources admitted that Mr Kinnock could be seen as taking a lower public profile since the election, but it was said that to equate that with lethargy was ignorant.

It was emphasized that Mr Kinnock had been deeply engaged in consolidating his hold on the Labour machine since the election and setting in hand the fundamental review of the policies on which Labour had fought and lost three elections.

Key speeches on policy would be seen as out of place while the review was underway.

To suggest, though, as Mr Warburton had, that Mr Kinnock had made no big speeches since the election was wrong. He travelled to Scotland on the day after the shattering election defeat to deliver a rallying speech.

During the following months he made several speeches, although his office made little attempt to bill them as significant policy pronouncements.

Recently, Mr Kinnock had led the attack on the Government over the health service, backing the complaints from doctors and other hospital staff.

Far from reticence or lethargy, the complaint most frequently levelled against Mr Kinnock has been that he speaks too much and takes more than his fair share of

time during prime minister's questions in the Commons.

Yesterday Mr Barry Jones, the former shadow Welsh Secretary and firmly on the centre-right of the party, said that criticism of Mr Kinnock was unjust and unreasonable.

He said: "Those who snap at his heels should desist. His achievements have been considerable and Labour's prospects are the better for his 1987 actions and his consequential command of the party."

He added: "It would be a pity if impatient trade unionists rocked the boat and wrecked the coherent and carefully-laid plans for recovery. The general election campaign, the policy review, the emergence of sane and regular majorities on the national executive committee, and the spirited common opposition augur well for Labour in 1988. Moreover, the Government is now carrying a major burden, namely unpopular legislative measures such as the Education Reform Bill, the poll tax Bill and the privatization of local government services Bill."

Mr Doug Hoyle, Labour MP for Warrington North and president of the white collar union, ASTMS, said: "We are doing well against the Tories. Neil is doing very well in Parliament. Any criticism levelled at him is unjust and can only help his enemies."

Mr Warburton said in his article: "The leadership and the party election style, if not the result, was acclaimed. But even basking in the satisfaction of a new image seems to have bored the leadership. Since the general election Neil Kinnock has made no major speech; he has taken no initiatives on a whole range of targets."

"The distance between the leadership and the rest of the movement is at best rather sad, even surprising. At worst it is demoralizing."

Mr Bill Jordan, the moderate president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, yesterday criticized Mr Warburton's comments as "unnecessary and ill-disciplined."

He said the right and left of the Labour party should "speak the language the public is prepared to listen to".

Civil Service union is warned over Labour link

By Roland Rudd

The Militant tendency's campaign to affiliate Britain's largest Civil Service union to the Labour Party will jeopardize the union's attempt to set up a political fund, it was disclosed yesterday.

The Treasury has told Mr John Ellis, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, it is not prepared to set up the machinery for a political fund unless it has an assurance that the association is not planning to affiliate to the Labour Party.

The Government believes

political affiliation of a Civil Service union would not be in keeping with the political neutrality of the Civil Service.

The union can only set up a political fund with the co-operation of the Treasury, which would have to deduct the levy at source.

The Militant-led executive has drawn back from its previous conference commitment to hold an early ballot on affiliation. Instead, it is now considering a campaign in favour of closer ties with the Labour Party.

The Government believes

Prince Consort keeps his seat



By Sheila Gunn

Britain's tribute to the Prince Consort, the Albert Memorial, is to be saved from demolition. The ornate Victorian edifice rising 175 feet above London's Kensington Gardens was sealed off earlier this year as a dangerous structure after pieces began to drop off.

Because of the high cost of repairing it, the Government was considering demolition. However, Lord Belstead, the heritage minister, has disclosed plans for its restoration.

"Costs will of course have to be contained within acceptable levels", he said.

The main danger comes from the iron roof and spire which are badly rusted. Although the 14 ft figure of the seated Prince Albert is still intact, many of the elaborate decorations and sculptures surrounding him have become badly weathered. The cost of restoring the monument to its former glory is put at £11 million.

Small subscriptions from all over the country contributed to the original £120,000 cost. In 1863, Parliament voted to give £50,000 towards it, although Gladstone delayed construction by haggling over the amount.

The committee formed by Queen

Victoria to select a suitable monument to her late husband rejected plans for an obelisk. Instead, it opted for a design by George Gilbert Scott, who was subsequently knighted, with the figure of Prince Albert sculpted by John Foley.

The impressive structure was acclaimed from the Victorians, but early in this century it was thought too ornate. Osbert Sitwell decided it in 1928 as a "wistful, unique monument of widowhood, with a gilded and pensive giant on his dais under a gothic canopy strewn with white mosaic designs".

(Photograph: Sally Soames)

Appeal to moderate miners

By Roland Rudd

British Coal has launched a campaign to emphasize the benefits of six-day working to win the support of moderates in the National Union of Mineworkers who are disillusioned with Mr Arthur Scargill's leadership.

Union executive members close to Mr Scargill fear the move is aimed at dividing the union in the "job hungry areas" of South Wales and Leicestershire. Flexible working is needed at all new mines at Margam in South Wales, Asfordby in Leicestershire and Hawkhurst in Warwickshire.

In the January issue of *Coal News*, British Coal has for the first time explained in detail how the proposed flexible

working would affect the average miner. The corporation says the system could give pitmen the opportunity of one week off in four, seven days less attendance every year, increased earnings and job security.

Management believes the changes are favoured by moderate coalfield leaders. Mr Des Duffield, Welsh president, and Mr Jack Jones, Leicester secretary, said they were in favour of negotiations.

Under the system, called a "Margam type roster", four teams of men would work a pit one on days, one on afternoons and one on nights, with the fourth team rostered off in any given month.

Among the benefits of the shift pattern are:

- Increasing holidays from four weeks to 14 to compensate for long shifts. This would mean every miner would have 146 days, including all Bank holidays, off work each year.
- The chance to earn more money through overtime. Men working non-rostered shifts at new mines on any day of the week would be paid overtime rates of pay. There would also be enhanced rates for those working rostered shifts at weekends.
- The employment of about one third more men to produce a third more coal. Miners would work a total of 218 shifts instead of 225.

Labour in poll tax protests

By Kerry Gill

The Government's plan to introduce the community charge, or poll tax, will almost certainly be the biggest issue at the annual Scottish conference of the Labour Party, which opens in Perth on March 11.

Delegates will hear 31 resolutions condemning poll tax. Many constituencies will demand a concerted campaign of resistance.

Lothian Regional Labour Party says the tax is unfair, impractical, anti-democratic and an attack on civil liberties. It will demand that all Scottish Labour MPs declare they will not pay the tax and will seek a one-day strike and other demonstrations.

The poll tax is due to be introduced in Scotland on April 1, 1989, a year sooner than in England and Wales. Many objectors maintain that Scotland is being used as a guinea pig to test the tax.

Other constituency parties want the conference to decide that Labour Party members should refuse to register for the tax.

Other contentious issues include the Government's recent White Paper on housing, which proposes changes in the finance and management of the public sector in Scotland.

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Housing market to remain buoyant, Halifax forecasts

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

House prices will rise by about 15 per cent in 1988, roughly the same as this year, the Halifax Building Society predicts in its annual review published today.

In an optimistic survey of house prices, the society says the stock market crisis in October has so far had little impact on house prices, or indeed any other economic indicator. In 1988 and beyond its effects would be a matter of concern, and a slowdown in growth in 1988 had for some time been forecast in both the world economy and in the UK, the Halifax explains.

"Forecasts released since October 19 (Black Monday) suggest this slowdown will now be slightly more pronounced. However, the consumer sector in the UK is likely to remain reasonably buoyant. Inflation should remain well below 5 per cent and earnings should continue to outpace this by 2-3 per cent."

If income taxes were cut next spring, real incomes should grow by more than 3 per cent next year, and interest rates in 1988 should be on average lower than in 1987. "The buoyancy of real incomes in the second half of 1987 and this outlook for next year should hold national house price inflation at around 15 per cent in 1988."

The pattern of increases is unlikely to change much from that seen in 1987, with prices continuing to rise faster in the south of the country, and the "ripple effect" likely to continue with increases in East Anglia, the Midlands and the South-west.

The Halifax expects a marked slowing down in house price inflation from late

1988 into 1989, reflecting declining growth in economic activity and real incomes during the course of 1988.

During 1987, house price increases in Greater London and the South-east, where real incomes probably increased at an even faster rate, continued to exceed the national average. In recent months the increases in East Anglia almost doubled to just under 30 per cent, reflecting both improved

Plans for cheap mortgages for nurses and other hospital staff were yesterday criticized by a Conservative MP, Mrs Teresa Gorman, MP for Billericay, Essex, said that such action would drive up house prices.

Instead, she said, the Government must tackle the problem of the thousands of empty rented properties in Britain's cities by repealing the Rent Act.

Under the cheap loans scheme announced by Mr Anthony Newton, the Minister for Health, mortgages would be offered by the Nationwide-Anglia building society at two-thirds of the normal interest rate in return for a share of the profits when the property is sold.

transport links, which opened up the area for London commuters, and a buoyant local economy.

In northern regions, price increases remained below 10 per cent, while in the Midlands increases reinforced evidence of a recovery in Midlands-based manufacturing industry.

Savills, the estate agents, which before the stock market falls suggested that the property market was overheated

and that price increases would level out, now says that prospects are "not too bad".

For a profession which normally takes the rosy view, that comment is perhaps significant, but Miss Victoria Mitchell, executive director at Savills, says that the London residential market seems to have borne up remarkably well in spite of the uncertainty in the City. "Prices have not fallen; in our experience there has been no panic selling; good properties have continued to find buyers at their asking prices and the turnover, whilst slower, is still there."

She said this reaction to "otherwise cataclysmic" events proved that the London market was both broadly and soundly based. "Providing there is not another crash in the world's financial markets and they stabilize over the winter months, we view 1988 with confidence. It will probably be a quieter market but after seven years of rapid growth, we welcome this."

One of the areas most vulnerable to a price collapse is London's Docklands, where prices have been rising spectacularly in the past two years. Knight Frank and Rutley, the estate agents, says sharp increases in Docklands property prices have now come to an end.

It reports that Dockland housing has now reached levels appropriate to prime central London locations, while certain sections of demand are also affected by the troubled financial markets. "In the changing market conditions, the scope for speculators is reduced, which further helps to establish a more steady pattern of price movements."

Shoppers bring chaos to cities

By Howard Foster and Craig Seton

The centre of Birmingham was closed yesterday and other city centres reported record numbers of shoppers as the Christmas sales took off after the holiday.

Oxford Street in the West End of London (right) was jammed with people, and police, stores and motoring organizations reported a heavy influx of cars and pedestrians into town centres all over the country.

Customers took the opportunity of Bank holiday opening to buy a large range of goods and holidays.

The centre of Birmingham had to be closed off by police, who were also called to help traffic wardens being verbally abused by motorists searching in vain for a parking space.

All traffic except buses and taxis were excluded after car parks filled up early in the day.

Chief Inspector Dennis Dixon said: "It was mad. We had to seal off the city centre for about one and a half hours and divert traffic away. It was caused purely by people arriving for the sales."

The AA said: "While the motorways and main roads are incredibly quiet, the town shopping centres have been absolutely frantic."

In the West End of London, where many motorists believed that double yellow line parking restrictions were not in operation, police either issued parking tickets or towed vehicles away.

The big West End stores enjoyed record sale business and some managers reported that the immediate pre-Christmas business had also been the busiest ever.

Payless DIY in Reading, Berkshire, reported that all its occasional furniture had been sold and that many other lines had also gone. At the B&Q do-



it-yourself store in the town, customers spent more than £80,000.

Police in Derby appealed on local radio for the crowds to avoid the town centre.

Staff at one store in Bristol

had to switch off heating because it was thought that customers might faint in "tropical" heat.

Holiday firms in the South reported "phenomenal business" with Spain and Greece the early favourites.

Dickens & Jones, with stores in Regent Street, Richmond upon Thames, Milton Keynes and Epsom reported that sales were up by 54 per cent compared with last year. "We reached our sales targets by midday", the company said.

Inmate on hunger strike for vegan diet

By Kerry Gill

A prisoner awaiting trial has been on hunger strike since November 20 in protest at not being allowed a vegan diet.

Mr David Barr, aged 21, of Pollok, Glasgow, does not use animals for either food or clothing and has existed on crisps and water in an observation cell at Saughton Prison, Edinburgh, since beginning his protest.

Yesterday his lawyers, More and Company, of Edinburgh, said they were considering taking the case to the European Court of Human Rights.

Mr Barr was arrested in connection with the alleged planting of an incendiary device at an Edinburgh store last month.

Mr Gus McInnes, a member of the Glasgow-based Vegan Action Group, said: "David is being treated disgracefully. No allowance is being made at all for his vegan principles. He was given a pillow which did not contain animal material, but only a few days ago. He still has not been given non-woollen blankets."

Mr McInnes said the Home Office made provision for vegans to be catered for in prison, but the authorities at Saughton had merely offered Spam to Mr Barr. Mr McInnes also claimed that Mr Barr had been assaulted in his cell on Christmas Eve by prisoners who had tried to force him to eat a hard-boiled egg.

Mr Barr is accused with Valerie Mohammed, aged 20, of Crow Road, Glasgow. She is in Cornton Vale Prison, Stirling. She is also a vegan but is believed to be getting appropriate food.

Last night the Scottish Office said the prison authorities did whatever possible to cater for the dietary requirements of all prisoners.

Wage rises extend the wealth divide

By Tim Jones

Workers in Britain have gained real increases of about 3 per cent a year in their pay over the past four years during which annual rises of about 7.5 per cent have become the "norm", according to research published today by the TUC.

It says, however, that government policies are responsible for a wider gap between rich and poor with a man in the top 10 per cent earning almost three times as much as someone in the bottom 10 per cent.

Office and professional workers have done better than the average, while male manual workers are only 1 per cent better off than they were in 1983. Some low paid workers have seen no improvement in their standard of living.

TUC researchers, who used figures supplied by the Department of Employment's New Earnings Survey, showed that, while men in the South-east received real increases of 3.8 per cent a year, the figure for Scotland and the North was about 2 per cent.

Women manual workers in most regions obtained real increases of less than 2 per cent and, in East Anglia, 1 per cent.

The survey figures show that low paid industrial workers secured real increases over the past four years of about 1 per cent a year. National Health Service ancillaries and agricultural workers failed to obtain any real increase.

The TUC says the overall trend of higher earnings for higher earners intensifies at the very upper reaches of the salary scale with executives' salaries rising by about 5 per

cent a year in real terms between 1983 and 1987.

The survey "showed that 10 per cent of executives received total cash increases over the single year 1986-87 of over 50 per cent, a real increase that year of some 46 per cent."

"The very top executives received multiple salary increases over the past few years to levels in some cases of over a million pounds a year. And this does not count dividend earnings and fringe benefits."

Continuing unemployment and insecurity had a depressing effect on incomes among those in the less prosperous occupations and areas.

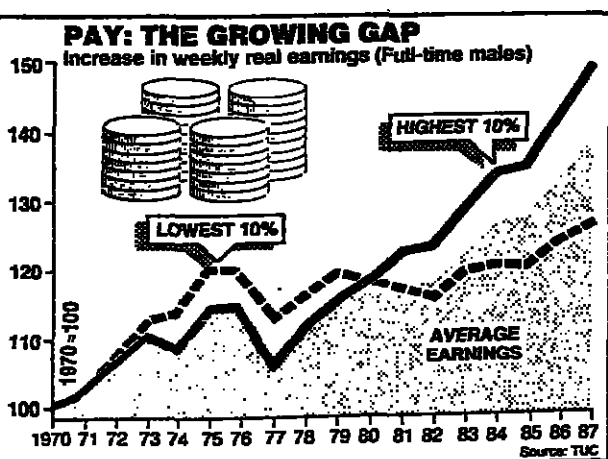
"This has been exacerbated by government policy of deliberately weakening legislation designed to protect low-paid workers."

People who live off benefit payments - the unemployed, pensioners and those on special Government schemes - received almost no increase in their incomes, the survey says.

"The recent relative rise in property may well, therefore, have bypassed well over a third of Britain's adult population."

It adds that "these trends towards greater inequality have moved very consistently over the past 10 years."

"The whole thrust of government policy, intensification of privatization and tendering, the threat to national pay bargaining, increasing encouragement of profit differentiation by region, and performance, is in the direction of intensifying disparities."



Farmer loses ice-cream appeal

A dairy farmer has been banned from selling home-made ice-cream direct to the public because its popularity has led to congestion on local roads.

Mr Brian Moore, aged 49, decided to make ice-cream rather than slaughter his 90 Guernsey cows when EEC milk quotas were imposed.

He has turned his 90,000 litres of milk each year into award-winning flavours. The business flourished and Mr Moore employs seven assistants at Manor Farm, Wootton, North Yorkshire.

Harrrogate District Council first said he did not need planning permission but then asked him to apply for change of use. Councillors

rejected it and Mr Moore appealed. After a public inquiry, the Department of the Environment has now ruled that his business is attracting too many retail customers.

In his report the inspector said: "Traffic is a serious problem". He has ruled that ice-cream can only be sold wholesale from the farm but adds: "Mr Moore is enterprising, resourceful and energetic. These factors should help him overcome any setbacks."

Mr Moore has six months to comply with the ruling. He said yesterday: "Everyone knows selling wholesale is a different and cut-throat business. It will be a struggle to continue. Lots of farmers will be saddened by the result. They have come to me for help and advice to keep their farms going."

Police plea over riddle of solicitor

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

Detectives who are searching for a Devon solicitor last seen eight days ago at Minehead in Somerset yesterday made a public appeal for information.

Mr Phillip Thomas, aged 40, was seen hitch-hiking from Exmoor after his car broke down. Police are mystified why he should have been on Exmoor and why he went to Minehead when his family thought he had gone to his office.

A search at the weekend by two police forces with diving teams and dogs failed to find any sign of Mr Thomas. Devon police are making inquiries in Lancashire where he was brought up.

Mr Thomas disappeared on December 20 after spending a normal weekend with his wife, Patricia, and three children at their home in South Molton, Devon.

He left home in his white Ford Cortina at 8pm after telling his wife that he was going to the office of his firm, Crosbie Wyatt and Company, in South Molton.

Police inquiries have revealed that Mr Thomas was given a lift into Minehead on Sunday evening. This was the last time he Mr Thomas was seen alive.

Police are looking for two missing schoolgirls, one from Worthing, West Sussex, and the other from Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

Kirsty Duggan, aged 14, has been missing since she set off for her paper round in Worthing last Monday. She was riding a blue Raleigh bicycle.

Police have failed to find any sign of Kirsty, who is 5 ft 4 in and was wearing a white mini-skirt, trainers and a blue/grey anorak. Jayne Briggs, aged 13, went missing from her home last Monday and was last seen in Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, two days later. She is 5 ft 8 in tall with blonde hair, and was wearing blue jeans and a black jacket.

Roman home

One of the largest private collections of Roman relics is set to get a permanent home in Maryport, Cumbria, after a decision by Allerdale district council. The collection was built up over 300 years by the Senhouse family.

"Wait 90 days or lose 90 days' interest."

We felt you should have another choice.

What do you do when your money is tied up in a high interest account and you suddenly need cash for an unexpected bill?

You could try and persuade the plumber, builder or whoever is waiting for the money to wait three months.

But you'd most likely take the money out of your account and lose three months' interest.

We didn't think it was much of a choice so we added a couple of options to our Capital Bonus account.

Quite simply, the more you save the more you earn, and you can still make one emergency withdrawal of up to £3,000 in any calendar year instantly and without losing a penny of interest.

Of course if you need to make a further withdrawal either give us 90 days' notice, or take your money out immediately and lose 90 days' interest on the amount withdrawn.

And you can always take money out without notice or loss of interest as long as a minimum of £10,000 remains in the account.

There are lots of other ways we can help you make more money on your money.

Just ask at your nearest Nationwide Anglia branch.

Together we will help you choose the account that's right for you.

But if for any reason in the first two weeks you want to transfer your money to another Nationwide Anglia account or have your money back without any loss of interest, we will happily oblige.

It's just one more way Nationwide Anglia can help you make the most of your money.

Nationwide Anglia Building Society

Helping you make the most of your money

Nationwide Anglia Building Society, Chesterfield House, Bloomsbury Way, London WC1V 6JW. Rates may vary.

Capital Bonus	
7.50% NET PA	£25,000 AND OVER
7.25% NET PA	£10,000 - £24,999
7.00% NET PA	£5,000 - £9,999
6.75% NET PA	£500 - £4,999

Whitehall smokers retreat as trial ban fails to clear the air

By John Spicer

A six-month experimental smoking ban among 1,600 Cabinet Office Civil Servants led to rebellion and hostility, according to a report on the way it was handled. But careful and sympathetic management by supervisors sorted out most of the problems, and the scheme could become permanent.

Whitehall's corridors of power may have been empty of people over the Christmas holiday, but the pall of tobacco smoke probably remains, because smoking was permitted only in the corridors during the experiment.

It was banned in all offices, lifts, lavatories, conference rooms and libraries at Cabinet Office premises in London, Basingstoke, Hampshire, and Sunningdale, Berkshire. In some buildings rooms were set aside for smokers, but corridors were the main areas where lighting up was allowed.

The experiment, started on June 1, was the initiative of the Council of Civil Servants.

Unions. Staff were asked for their views on a smoking ban and 70 per cent of them voted in favour of restrictions. But once the ban started there were a number of difficulties with determined smokers.

Before the trial began it was agreed that no disciplinary action would be taken against those ignoring the ban, apart from people being asked to explain themselves to an appropriate manager. In the first three months about 30 "incidents" produced such requests.

Details of the experiment are reported in the current edition of *Personnel Management*, the magazine of the Institute of Personnel Management.

The magazine's deputy editor, Mr Richard Upton, says that although most difficulties were resolved by local managers, there were problems with some supervisors who were "unable or unwilling to tackle resistance to the trial among their own staff".

In one section of the Cabinet Office with a high proportion of smokers, an initially hostile reaction to the ban produced a "mass exit" by smokers, which was followed by complaints from non-smokers left behind that they were over-stretched trying to cope with the extra workload. A compromise was reached when it was agreed smokers could take breaks on a staggered basis.

A survey taken three months after the experiment began showed that 80 per cent were in favour of continued restrictions of some kind.

Mr Upton's report discusses the general issues involved in banning smoking at work, but he says: "No one who has seen a roomful of people debating the merits of a ban on smoking can have any doubts about the potential of this topic for raising hackles. A wise employer will take account of the feelings and problems of smokers and non-smokers."

Fares war adds to airline's profits

Aer Lingus is expected to report a big increase in profits this week. Figures from the Irish Republic's national airline are likely to show a 25 per cent rise in the number of passengers carried between Britain and the republic.

Passenger numbers to and from the United States are up

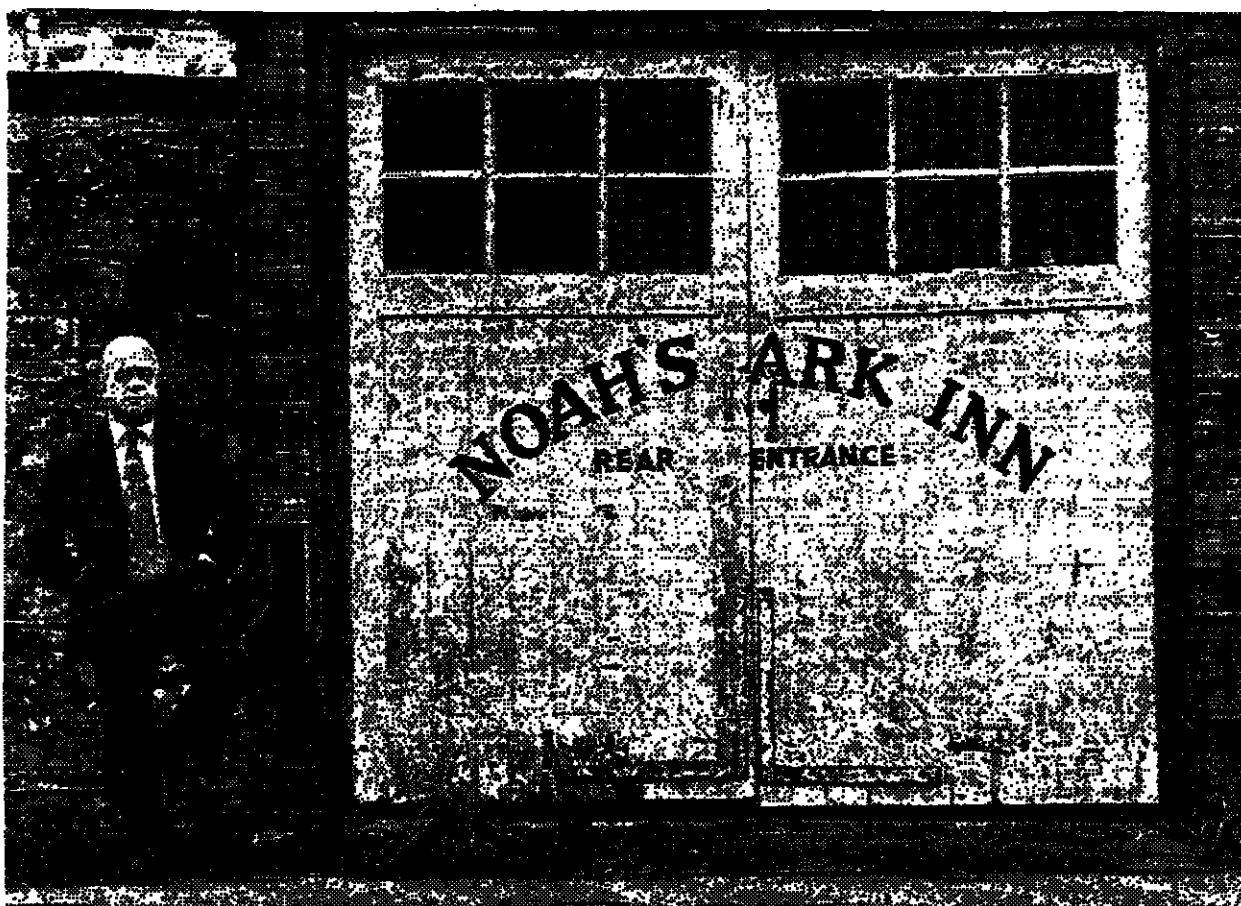
20 per cent and on Continental services there was a 10 per cent rise.

The increase in passenger numbers has been prompted by lower fares. Airline sources estimate that by the end of the financial year profits will have risen by about £4 million to more than £22 million.

The increase, particularly on British routes, has followed a fares war involving smaller airlines operating out of the republic.

Bigger profits will help Aer Lingus, which claims to have the biggest individual market share among Irish airlines, to replace ageing aircraft.

Drive to save link with Thomas Hardy



Mr John Antell at the Noah's Ark Inn, his great-great grandfather (top right) and Thomas Hardy, early 1870s (Yesterday's photograph: Nick Rogers)

A relative of the poet and author Thomas Hardy is mounting a campaign to save the former public house in Dorchester, Dorset, where as a young man the writer observed local characters.

The nineteenth century building in Mill Street, which was Miss Lane in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, still has the name Noah's Ark painted above the door. But it has been empty for more than 12 years and Mr John Antell, a first cousin of Hardy, wants to see it restored.

Mr Antell, who works for Dorset County Council, said: "I have become

very concerned about this building as I have watched it slowly deteriorate. It is very much part of the history of the town."

He has approached the owner of the property, Mr Michael Legge, a local antique dealer, and has asked the county council to put the matter on the agenda of the conservation committee.

His interest stems from the fact that his great-grandfather, also called John Antell, was Hardy's uncle and the author's inspiration for *Jude the Obscure*. Hardy used other members of the family as characters in his novels, including Mr Antell's great-

great grandfather, Mr George Ham, portrayed as the maltster in *Far From the Madding Crowd*.

Mr Legge said he was surprised at the interest in the Noah's Ark. It had been the home of his family for almost a hundred years and had been run as a public house until his grandmother gave it up after the last war. It was then run by landlord occupiers until the 1970s.

"I am as keen as anyone to see the place restored and indeed we are in the process of doing just that," he said. "We have done a holding job while engaged in research, because we want

to use the right materials and methods so that it will look just as it did originally."

Progress so far, he agreed, had been "invisible", but inside the building he had stored oak timbers saved from a local chapel and some mantelpieces to use in the restoration work.

Hardy once gave a warning against identification of the locations of his novels because of "the nuisance occasioned to those who live there by trippers with their Kodaks looking over the hedges, and other undesirable visitors".

Cash fear for victims of crime

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Money for the victims of crime is being cut, says the National Association of Victims Support Schemes.

Under new regulations and existing powers the availability of grants to replace stolen goods has been substantially reduced, the association reports in its newsletter.

Many victims are living on the poverty line, so the loss of household items and clothing is serious. It is not uncommon for beds, furniture and clothing to be stolen or vandalized beyond repair.

People on supplementary benefit had been able to apply for grants to replace essential items, until the changes were introduced.

As if those alterations were not enough, says the association, from April 1 nearly all grants will be replaced by "crisis loans". "This will have the effect of putting those on already low income into still more hardship."

In addition, proposals for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board in the Criminal Justice Bill will stop compensation for clothing criminally damaged.

Mr John Patten, the Minister of State at the Home Office, is quoted in the newsletter as saying: "There is an element in supplementary benefit which covers the provision or replacement of clothing and for those victims in special need additional payments may also be made to cover replacement, mending or cleaning."

The association says: "Presumably these payments will also be replaced next year by loans; they are in any case of no help to those victims who are not eligible for supplementary benefit."

Tourist industry Move to create 10,000 jobs

By Peter Davenport

A fresh tourism strategy for the Yorkshire and Humberside region is expected to create up to 10,000 jobs over the next five years.

The plan is being put together by a management team heading the Yorkshire and Humberside Tourist Board, based in York, and will be launched in late spring.

In 1986 tourism generated £570 million for the region; 80,000 jobs depended directly on the trade with many more linked in spin-off industries and services.

There were around 10 million visitors to the region of whom seven million were on holiday. The rest were businessmen.

Mr Bob Collier, the board's recently-appointed marketing manager, whose last post was with the tourist authority for Torbay, Devon, said: "We are looking for growth in the industry for the region with up to 2,000 new jobs each year for the next five years."

Elsewhere in the region, with its areas of high unemployment, tourism offered one of the cheapest methods of job creation.

At the heart of the region the city of York already has several million visitors a year but the aim of the tourist board is to promote other attractions as well, to encourage visitors to stay longer and spend more.

However, with other traditional holiday areas also feeling the pinch from the foreign package holiday market, the fight to attract those who holiday at home, as well as the 15 million overseas visitors expected next year, is fiercely competitive.

The Yorkshire and Humberside Tourist Board sees the heritage attractions within its diverse area, stretching from the Pennines to the coast, as a key factor and next year there is to be a big promotion of Yorkshire's monastic history.

For the first time the National Trust, English Heritage and the Yorkshire Museum are working together to present "A Celebration of Yorkshire Abbeys".

There will be a special exhibition to mark the 900th anniversary of the founding of St Mary's Abbey in York which will include illuminated manuscripts and works of art not normally on show.

Doubts over appraisals of the arts

By Lynda Murdin, Arts Correspondent

The Arts Council was last night accused of being "both referee and players" in its treatment of new work in visual and performing arts.

The charge was made by Mr Bill McAlister, director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts, one of 17 organizations which the Arts Council has picked to undergo a comprehensive appraisal.

Rather than fearing such a close scrutiny - the second batch to be carried out after the success of a pilot study last year - Mr McAlister said he had been demanding one for several years. But, he believed, there was a delay because the

council would be embarrassed by its findings.

"They are not funding this area of work any way like they should. It will reveal they have funded their own departments. When it comes to new work, the Arts Council are both referee and players," he said.

He said that while withdrawing from direct involvement with the Hayward and Serpentine galleries, the council continued to produce its own films, run the Contemporary Music Network and make decisions about new theatre productions.

Nevertheless Mr McAlister

gave a qualified welcome to the appraisal.

The Arts Council said last night that there was "nothing sinister" implied in the choices.

The in-depth appraisals are conducted by a small team which includes Arts Council and Regional Arts Associations' advisers and staff. They are intended to cover all aspects of an organization's work such as artistic and management skills, finance, box office, marketing and education work.

World stage, page 10

Chocolate mints pass poison test

First tests by Scotland Yard forensic scientists on samples of chocolates proved negative yesterday after fears that they had been tampered with.

The alert began when a message saying: "These chocolates are contaminated" was discovered in a box of Harrington's mint creams, in Bexleyheath, south-east London.

Police warned people not to eat them. The makers, Robert Walker Ltd, of Birmingham, believe the note was a prank in spite of 40 people complaining of stomach pains.

Skier dies

Mr Tim Stockwin, aged 19, died while skiing in Austria when he hit his head on a rock. His father, Professor Arthur Stockwin, is Nissan professor of modern Japanese studies at St Antony's College, Oxford.

Tribute to star

Mr Geoff King and his wife Elaine are to put a plaque on their house at Horfield, Bristol, in memory of Cary Grant, the actor, who was born there 84 years ago.

£50m contract

A £50 million contract to redevelop the National Garden Centre site at Stokes-Trent, Staffordshire, creating up to 2,000 jobs, is expected to be signed in the new year.

Secret date

Mr Harvey Smith, the show-jumper, married Miss Susan Dye in secret on Christmas Eve, two hours after his son Steven was married in the same Bradford register office.

Death plunge

Mr Geoffrey Wiffen, a retired bricklayer, was identified yesterday as the fifth person this year to fall to his death from the Valley Road bridge in Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

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A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

AIR CANADA

Private enterprise brings new breed of traders

Traditional street markets are booming in Britain in spite of increasing competition from the high streets and out-of-town shopping complexes.

The retail industry under canvas is flourishing, with an estimated 1,500 markets providing about 120,000 stalls a week, being worked by more than 500,000 traders. Throughout the EEC there are some two million market traders.

Traditionally in Britain, markets were run by local authorities, often under royal charters stretching back centuries. Stalls were worked by families for generations. Such markets still exist today.

The past 25 years, however, has seen a steady change in the structure of markets, with an increasing swing towards private enterprise and the coming of a new generation of traders.

That trend has changed the face of markets, creating fortunes for some and generating a valuable new sector of the property market. It has helped to boost local authority funds and has provided work for thousands of helpers.

There are about 25 big private operating companies

and many more small private operators running markets on sites ranging from city centre car parks to farm fields.

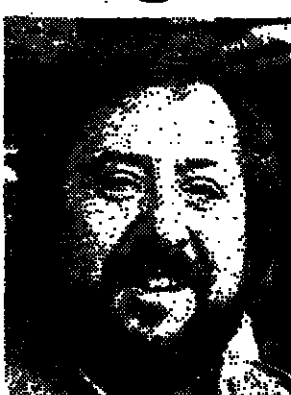
The appetite of the operators for new sites is insatiable and even a whisper of a car park, a vacant building lot or an empty supermarket which might be available for long or short term use is guaranteed to bring inquiries and offers.

Local authorities have been quick to realize the growth in the private market operating business and many have benefited by putting out to tender operating rights for markets.

At Chichester, West Sussex, tenders to run a market on a council-owned site ranged from £60,000 to more than £200,000.

In London an important site was put out to tender and the winning bid is reputed to have been £700,000 a year.

The big money offers for sites are readily understandable. Stall rents of £15 a day are fairly common, £20 to £30 not uncommon and £70 not unknown. At £15 a stall the rental income from a 300 unit market held once a week is £234,000 a year. At £25 a unit it is £390,000.



Mr Tony Sherman: markets in vacant high street sites.

A number of operating companies are owned by former property men.

Bray Associates, which has a Sunday market at Nine Elms, south-west London, and 17 others throughout the south and the home counties, is headed by Mr Brian Nunan who turned from the property business to market operating. His company spends more than £800,000 a year renting sites.

Mr Tony Sherman, another former property man, heads Sherman Waterman Associates, which started the Jubilee Market at Covent

Garden. This company lists among its interests six "Jubilee Shopping Halls" indoor markets, most of them housed in redundant supermarkets.

Mr Sherman said: "The trend for multiples to move out of town has left a large number of empty buildings in some high streets. They are buildings which are too big for the small retailer but too small for the large ones."

"These buildings are increasingly being turned over to indoor markets. This is becoming an increasingly valuable area of the property market."

Mr Bill Joynes, head of Midland Markets, started out as a market trader and switched to operating. His company, based in Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire, runs markets in a dozen different towns from Yorkshire to the West Country and Kent.

Annual turnover is more than £1 million and the company offers 21 markets every week. Mr Joynes says the business which he established in 1980 has turned him into a millionaire twice over.

Market trading has become a growth area of the retail industry. Many redundant or

unemployed people have turned to the markets.

Setting up in the business has become a popular occupation for Enterprise Allowance support. Traders' earnings cannot be gauged by any average. Their incomes depend on what they sell, the extent of their stock, the number of markets they work and their sales pitch.

Competition from the high street multiples and supermarkets has reduced the traditional cut-price edge market traders had in the past.

Mr Ray Toller, general secretary of the National Market Traders Federation, said: "In some areas the out-of-town complexes in particular do make life hard and traders face a struggle."

"The federation is concerned about the future impact the increasing number of out-of-town complexes will have. But there is also no doubt that there is still money to be made from market trading and some traders are doing very well."

The market business, in spite of its barrow-boy image, has grown into a serious and financially important sector of the retail industry.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Eight blacks die in Natal violence

Johannesburg — Eight more blacks have died, five have been wounded and 42 arrested in continuing violence in Natal province which is attributed mainly to a struggle for power between rival black political organizations (Michael Hornby writes). According to yesterday's police "unrest" bulletin for the previous 24 hours, the latest eight victims included an 80-year-old woman and a seven-year-old child.

In addition, the police belatedly reported that 10 blacks were killed last Saturday near Kranskop, also in Natal, in clashes between members of two Zulu clans that appeared to be unrelated to the politically motivated feuding.

This brings to 31 the number of blacks killed since the day before Christmas in black communities in Natal, notably in the townships around Pietermaritzburg. Only two of the deaths were caused by police action.

Mao wife still held

Peking (Reuter) — Mao Tse-tung's widow, Jiang Qing, is still in prison, the Justice Ministry said yesterday, denying reports that she had been freed and was living in a Peking villa in poor health.

Jiang, aged 73, and her radical allies who made up the so-called "Gang of Four" were arrested soon after Mao's death in 1976 and accused of counter-revolution. She was sentenced to death but that was commuted to life imprisonment. "She is still in prison. She is still serving her sentence," the spokesman said.

Journalist rebuked

Moscow — A journalist accused of fabricating an opinion poll which said that only 30 per cent of respondents approved of the re-structuring drive known as perestroika, has apparently been dropped from the editorial board of his newspaper (A Correspondent writes).

Mr Vladimir Birioukov's name was not the list of editorial officials in the latest edition of *Ogonyok*, a standard bearer for perestroika in the Soviet media. He had already been reprimanded by the weekly paper's Communist Party cell.

Hart gets federal cash

Washington (AP) — The Federal Election Commission yesterday certified Mr Gary Hart eligible to receive federal matching funds for his revived campaign for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination. The move clears the way for Hart's campaign to receive \$100,000 (£54,600) early next week from the US Treasury.

The certification is the first hurdle to be cleared by the former Colorado Senator on the way to what campaign aides have said should achieve \$940,000 in federal money.

Maltese cleared

Cosenza, Italy (Reuter) — An Italian court has quashed an arrest warrant issued against the former Maltese Justice Minister, Mr Joseph Brincat, and ordered his immediate release from a southern Italian prison.

He was detained on December 5 in connection with investigations into a Sicilian kidnapping involving a \$4 million ransom demand. He went to Italy when a Maltese jeweller friend was seriously injured in a car crash. Police said gold, bank notes and jewellery were hidden under a false floor panel.

Cockpit diplomacy

Moscow (Reuter) — Herr Franz-Josef Strauss, the Bavarian Prime Minister, right, flew his Cessna plane to the Soviet capital yesterday for a visit focusing on economic issues but tinged with speculation that he might appeal for the release of Mathias Rust, the jailed West German pilot.

Rust, aged 19, was sentenced to four years in a labour camp for illegally flying his Cessna to Red Square last May.

A West German Embassy spokesman said Herr Strauss had been at the controls when he flew into Moscow, but he declined to comment on reports that he would appeal to the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, for Rust's release. "That's speculation which I cannot confirm," he said. He expected Herr Strauss to meet Mr Gorbachev today.

Disputed 'refugees' get US aid for new schools

From Michael Binyon Washington

Over the strong objections of the State Department, the US Senate has voted to pay a little-known Jewish organization \$8 million (£4.37 million) to build schools for Jews in France. The project was pushed through by Senator Daniel Inouye, whose recent election campaign was supported by a director of the group receiving the money.

The money, included in a \$600 billion appropriations bill signed into law by President

Reagan before Christmas, will pay for building schools for North African Jews who have settled in Paris. The bill classifies them as refugees, even though many have lived in France for more than 10 years and prospered.

Neither the US Government, the French Government nor the United Nations High Commission for Refugees considers them refugees.

"This is a programme to subsidize French education, which we don't think in the current budget climate is

Life that mirrored Russia's 20th-century ordeal



Mrs Bonner: She experienced the turbulent evolution of communism.

By Alexander Johnson
The life of Mrs Ruth Bonner, who died quietly at the weekend in Moscow, provides a series of vivid images of the turbulent 20th-century history of the Soviet Union.

This frail, chain-smoking woman who was the mother-in-law of Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet human rights campaigner, saw and experienced events in her country from the last days of the Tsars, through the murderous era of Stalin, to the present tentative relaxation.

She was born in 1900 into a Jewish revolutionary family and, some time before 1917, the family was living in eastern Galicia. Like many other Jews who had suffered in the pogroms of the 1880s and 1900s, her relatives were committed socialists and were exiled to the desolate wastes of the east.

Her wedding took place after the longed-for Revolution in 1917, when Ruth, a member of the Rus-

sian Communist Party, married an activist of the Armenian Communist Party.

She could not have known at the time how far the aspirations of Armenia to autonomy, more or less tolerated under Lenin, would be crushed by Stalin. In 1937 her husband, along with thousands of other Communist party officials, was accused by Stalin of "bourgeois nationalism". He was arrested and shot.

Later in the same year she was digging a canal in Kazakhstan as an inmate of a prison camp. She had been removed from her job in the Moscow City Party Committee's department of culture and propaganda and been imprisoned on the grounds that she was the wife of "an enemy of the people".

Her brother, Marvei, who also died in confinement that year, was one of an estimated seven million people killed on Stalin's orders

during the Great Terror from 1937 to 1953.

After the Second World War, she was released from the camp in 1946 but forced to live in internal exile in a tiny flat near Leningrad. Later, she was sent to the Gorky region, east of Moscow, the same destination as her future son-in-law, Dr Sakharov.

Only in 1954, the year after Stalin's death, when Nikita Khrushchev began the process of de-Stalinization, was she released from internal exile and her husband posthumously rehabilitated.

She was in Moscow for a second wedding in 1971. This time it was between her daughter, Yelena, a former Soviet Army doctor, and Academician Sakharov, the Nobel prize-winning physicist and a pioneer of the Soviet hydrogen bomb.

Dr Sakharov had begun his disagreements with the regime in 1961, when he wrote a private letter to Khrushchev warning of the evils of nuclear weapons. By 1971 he was

one of the dissidents orchestrating the human rights movement in the Soviet Union.

In 1980 she went on what she had hoped would be a short visit to the United States, during which she campaigned tirelessly for the release of the Sakharovs from their Gorky exile. They were sent there by the authorities after Dr Sakharov's criticism of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

In 1980, as a result of her outspokenness, the 80-year-old Mrs Bonner was refused an entry visa by the Soviet authorities and she could not return home from the US until June 1986.

When she returned she told the Kremlin that "it would be nonsense" after what the Soviet authorities had done to her husband, her brother, her daughter and her son-in-law, to pick up the Communist party card she had held almost since the days of the 1917 Revolution.

Gulf Arab summit agrees pact to boost joint security

Riyadh (Reuter) — Leaders of Gulf Arab states threatened by a spillover of the Iran-Iraq war approved a pact yesterday to boost security co-operation.

"It was discussed, submitted to the summit and approved," the Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, said.

The six-state Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), which generally backs Iraq in the war, has been the target of internal subversion attempts by pro-Iranian militants in recent years.

The pact, under consideration since 1982, sets broad outlines for security co-operation between the GCC states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

Prince Saud said the leaders had completed discussion of items on their agenda, topped by the war, and would hold a closing session of the summit today.

The summit is expected to urge the UN Security Council to implement its call for a ceasefire in the war and to strongly censure Iran for recent missile strikes against Kuwait oil installations.

Officials said the heads of state were likely to criticize Iran for its alleged role in the Mecca riots last July but also appeal to it to make peace with Iraq.

The summit appeared to have overcome the Kuwaiti objections to a clause in an earlier draft of the security pact which provided for the cross-border pursuit of criminals. Kuwait's reservations had blocked approval of the pact for several years.

But officials said the Mecca riots, in which hundreds of pilgrims died, and bombings in Kuwait over the past year had given a new urgency to the issue.

Repeated Iranian attacks on ships serving its ports prompted Kuwait to seek US, British and Soviet naval protection for its oil exports early this year.

King Fahd said on Saturday that, if the war continued to escalate, the GCC could be

forced to appeal to foreign powers to defend itself.

Prince Saud al-Faisal told a news conference on Sunday that the GCC would also discuss steps to boost defence co-operation, but he declined to elaborate.

Defence co-operation has been slowed by differing views within the GCC on how fast to pursue it and how to deal with Iran. While Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain want to accelerate defence co-operation, the southern Gulf states have been more cautious. The UAE and Oman have also

UK interests Gadafi target

The Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Gadafi, called on Palestinians and other Arabs yesterday to "destroy British interests wherever in the world they might find them" (Hazhri Teimourian writes). He also indicated a change of heart on the Gulf War by warning Iran "not to behave like a new colonial power" there.

In an interview on the BBC's Arabic service, he referred to the current state of violence in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza, and bitterly denounced Britain for "selling Palestine to the Jews", an apparent reference to the Balfour declaration of 1917 which Arabs see as crucial in the setting up of the state of Israel. He also urged attacks on American interests because of the support the United States was giving to Israel.

sought to soften criticism of Iran, arguing that hostile statements and military pressure will only raise tension in the region.

British presidency: Britain will take over the presidency of UN Security Council on Friday determined to give fresh impetus to efforts to bring about an arms embargo against Iran (Andrew McEwen and Charles Bremner write).

It inherits the presidency from the Soviet Union, whose one-month term of office ends on Thursday. Although by no means a complete disappoint-

ment, the Soviet contribution is viewed in some quarters as an opportunity only half taken.

Moscow has held out since July against pressure from Washington and Whitehall for the Security Council to adopt a resolution imposing an embargo.

In practice the West believes it would affect only Iran, as the country which has refused to respect the Council's Resolution 598, which called for a ceasefire and foresaw the need for enforcement measures.

After arguing for five months that Iran should be given more time to accept Resolution 598, which was passed on July 20, Moscow finally began to relent. But it has done so in a much less convincing way than the West had hoped.

There was a feeling among diplomats in Whitehall — not fully shared at the British mission to the UN — that Moscow might have used its term of presidency to take the credit for an embargo resolution.

Instead it produced what amounted to a holding statement. A Soviet-proposed text was adopted saying that the council agreed to "consider further steps to ensure compliance" with Resolution 598.

The statement, issued last week by Mr Aleksandr Belonogov, Soviet Ambassador and council president, also expressed concern over the slow pace and lack of progress.

Mr John Birch, Britain's deputy ambassador, said: "The whole council is now unanimous that we must do something to enforce the will of the international community to end this conflict."

Short of some further Soviet move today, which is unlikely as the Security Council is technically closed until January 4, it will now be up to Britain to turn the statement of intent into a resolution.

But that may not be simple, as the hurdle of persuading the Soviet Union to allow joint work on drafting a resolution to begin has yet to be crossed. Gulf tide turns, page 8

Waiting for Israel's justice



Relatives of Palestinian youths accused of taking part in the recent riots on the West Bank peer anxiously through the fence around the Nablus court where the trials are being held.

Curfew on refugee camp at Gaza lifted after five days

From A Correspondent, Jerusalem

A curfew at the Jabalya refugee camp near Gaza was lifted yesterday and its 65,000 residents were allowed to leave the camp for the first time for five days. Life began returning to normal in the West Bank and Gaza Strip after two weeks of clashes between Palestinian and the Israeli occupation forces. But experts were predicting a new wave of violence, perhaps as soon as Friday.

An official of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency said that the curfew at the Jabalya camp had caused acute hardship to the residents. The agency had been unable to distribute food to infants, pregnant women and nursing mothers.

Apart from 22 Palestinian shot dead by Israeli troops, hundreds were wounded and almost 800 are under detention for taking part in the riots. Reports of inhuman conditions in prisons and disregard for judicial procedures in the trials of the detainees have added to the seething resentment in the occupied areas.

Israeli officials have denied

the reports, but knowledgeable sources say that the mood in the areas is better and that activists are calling for mass demonstrations on New Year's Day, which is celebrated by Palestinians as the anniversary of the foundation of Mr Yasser Arafat's Al Fatah wing of the Palestine Liberation

Organization in 1964. This year it falls on a Friday when Muslims gather in mosques, which are often centres of nationalist agitation.

In the only incident reported yesterday an Israeli was slightly injured when he was stabbed in the head near Jerusalem's Old City.

In military courts, including several especially established for the purpose, trials of Palestinians arrested during the disturbances continued. While most trials were deferred after indictments were issued, prisoners who pleaded guilty or were convicted after plea bargaining, were sentenced to jail terms ranging from one to five months.

The authorities have apparently not yet decided whether to go ahead with the expulsion of leading agitators to neighbouring Arab countries. Although the Defence Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, and other Israeli leaders are known to consider this the most efficient method of preventing disturbances, others are opposed because of possible diplomatic and security damage.

Manager's big bonus starts a capitalist scare in China

Peking (Reuter) — A huge pay bonus earned by a successful factory chief under China's economic reforms has started a row in the official media and highlighted the growing gap between rich and poor.

Mr Liu Changfu was entitled to a contract bonus of 45,000 yuan (£5,500) after boosting the profits of an ailing metal plant in north-east China in 1986, the official New China news agency said yesterday.

Local officials and some of Mr Liu's own workers objected that the payment, 50 times an average city worker's annual pay, was too much. They suggested 10,000 yuan. Mr Liu is insisting that his contract must be honoured in full, but so far he has not received anything.

Economists, government officials and others are this month debating in the pages of the official *Economic Daily* newspaper whether Mr Liu should get his money

"What is the difference between this and capitalist profits?" the newspaper quoted one typical argument as saying. "In the long term, won't we create a new class of capitalists?"

Others disagree. "I'm not one of (the paper's) jealous

Peking (AP) — China and the Soviet Union have agreed to increase trade between the two countries in 1988. China is to import Soviet rolled steel, pig iron, non-ferrous metals, timber, machinery products and other equipment while exporting soybeans, corn, frozen meat, apples, tea, raw silk, cotton, textiles and livestock.

Mr Liu, however, told the newspaper that under the contract he signed he had run the risk of financial ruin if the factory had lost money.

"I am entitled to the money. This will protect not only the validity of the contract, but also the socialist principle of 'to each according to his work'," he said.

a large slice of the 45,000 yuan to his workers, who each earned only a 400-yuan bonus in 1986.

Mr Liu's startling earnings arose from a reform allowing individual managers to sign contracts to run some state-owned plants. If profits exceed a target, the manager and workers get a bonus. If the factory loses money, the manager is liable for the debts.

Some successful Chinese entrepreneurs have spent their personal profits from such contracts on local welfare projects out of embarrassment at their sudden wealth, earlier official press reports said.

Mr Liu, however, told the newspaper that under the contract he signed he had run the risk of financial ruin if the factory had lost money.

"I am entitled to the money. This will protect not only the validity of the contract, but also the socialist principle of 'to each according to his work'," he said.

Ghana drug crisis spurs execution call

From Susan MacDonald Accra

The problem of drug-trafficking in Ghana has now reached such serious proportions that defence lawyers are calling for public execution as a deterrent.

Although Mr George Agyekum, the public tribunal judge who presides over most of the country's difficult drug cases, does not agree with such a drastic step, he points out that the drug-trafficking centre in West Africa moved from Nigeria to Ghana after the public execution of drug dealers in Lagos nearly three years ago.

"We believe that since then stocks held in Lagos have been gradually transferred into Ghana and that international drug dealers, operating mainly out of India, are using Accra as a staging post in their ever more roundabout ways of smuggling drugs into Europe," he said. The drugs are mainly heroin and some cocaine.

Ghanaians make easy prey for traffickers recruiting carriers because many do not know the difference between hard drugs and marijuana, which is freely smoked in Ghana. Secondly, the Ghanaians' love for money makes them expert at finding

ways, legal or otherwise, of earning a little extra on the side.

Mr Agyekum said that the carriers were often women, girl friends or wives of drug pushers who for a fee of between £1,000 and £2,000 would insert small packages into vaginal or anal passages and fly to Britain.

Lawyers and government officials are beginning to press for the death

6 Carriers are often women paid up to £2,000 to bring drugs to Britain

penalty because what has been a strictly drug-trafficking problem is turning into a domestic issue as the drug market, especially among the well-to-do young, begins to open up in Ghana.

"Public execution might not solve the whole problem of drug-trafficking," said one government official, "but it will sure move it on to another country."

Mr Agyekum believes that the solution lies in education: by alerting the public to the dangers of drug abuse and by training special narcotics squads. Britain is helping in the latter

programme, providing special equipment and instruction for police.

As a large proportion of the drugs leaving Ghana ends up in Britain, it is in the British interest to work as closely as possible with the Ghanaian authorities. Several top-offs have recently been passed to British police from Accra. As a result of this co-operation, for example, a Ghana Airways manager is now serving four years in Bristol for drug smuggling.

Money meant status in Ghana, Mr Agyekum said, and people did not mind how they got it. Among those recently arrested was the wife of an ambassador stationed in Accra and the deputy mayor of a military hospital.

Longer sentences and heavier fines are being imposed in Ghana, although the penalties are still more lenient than those handed down in Europe. The heavier fines, sometimes as high as a million cedis (approximately £3,500), are beginning to have an effect because many drug pushers promise to pay their carriers' fines if they are caught. "It is difficult to get a woman to name the drug dealer if she is emotionally involved with him, but we can get at him through the fines," said Mr Agyekum.

6 Money means status in Ghana and people do not mind how they get it

The public tribunals, set up after Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings came to power in 1981, are the only ones empowered to try crimes against the state — crimes which carry the death sentence. Selling confidential economic or political information already falls into that category, because those convicted are considered to have betrayed their country by allowing others to profit. If the moderates' attempts to solve the country's growing drug problem fail and the hardliners get their way, the death penalty could soon be introduced for drug-traffickers, too.

Manila shipping tragedy inquiry opens

Ferry disaster witnesses vanish

From Our Correspondent
Manila

Key witnesses to the world's worst peacetime shipping disaster, two of only 26 survivors of a collision in which up to 2,000 people died, have disappeared.

When an official inquiry into the collision between the ferry Dona Paz and the tanker MV Victor 150 miles south of Manila opened here yesterday, the authorities said that they did not know the whereabouts of the two surviving members of the tanker's crew, who were rescued after the collision on December 20.

They disappeared soon after a rescue ship arrived in Manila on Monday last week.

Meanwhile, an earlier claim by a survivor that the ferry captain had been watching television and that two of his senior crew had been drinking at the time of the collision was denied.

A lawyer for the registered owner of the tanker said that the vessel had been sold as long ago as 1985, and that his client, Mr Francisco Soriano, denied any responsibility for the disaster. No one was there to represent the alleged present owners, the Victor Shipping Corporation.

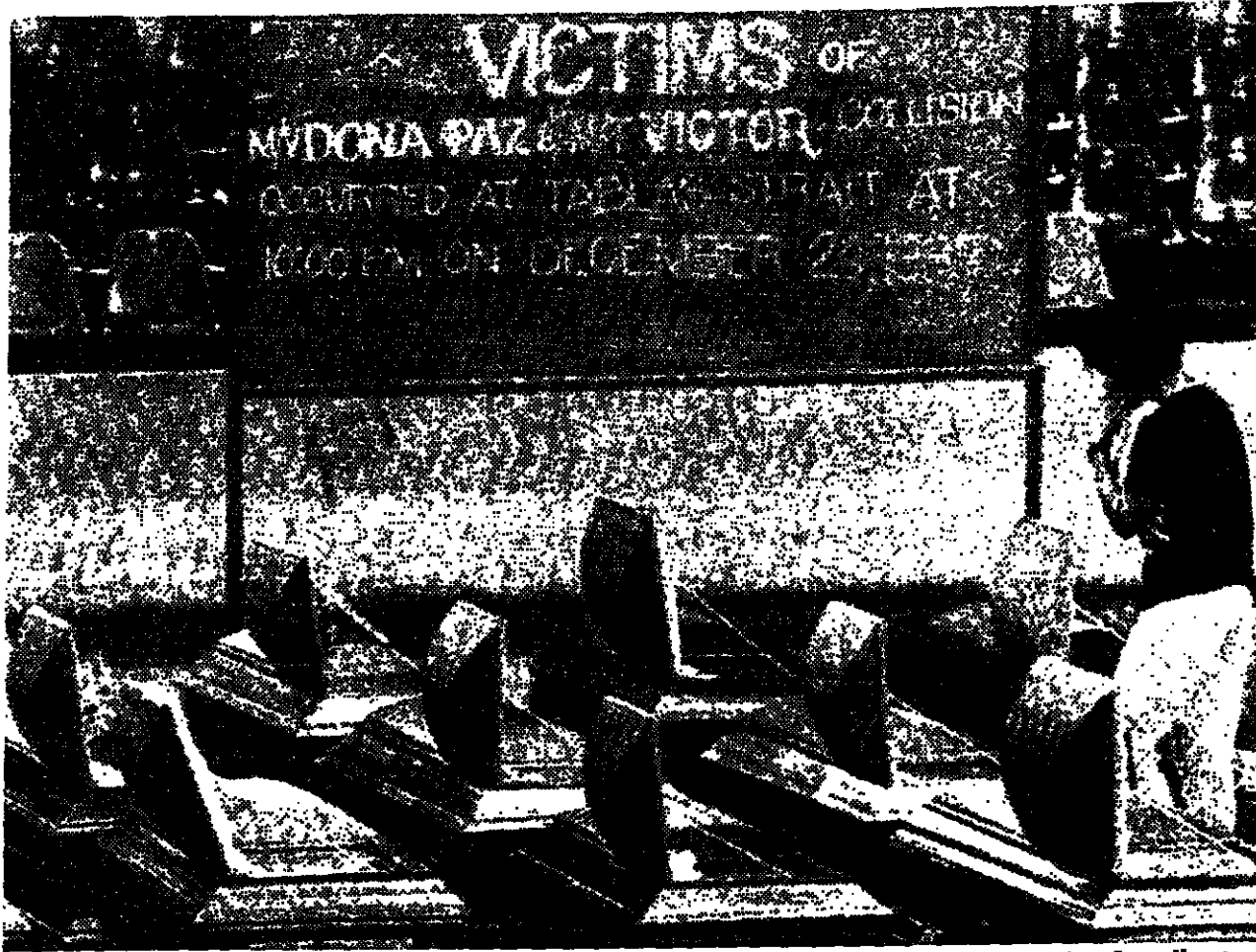
The owners of the ferry also denied responsibility. Mr Vincente Gambito, a vice-president of Sulpicio Lines, said the ferry was not overloaded, countering reports from survivors that up to 3,000 people were on board.

A survivor had earlier said that an explosion was at the helm of the Dona Paz when she went down, that the first and second mate were on deck drinking beer, and that the captain was in his cabin watching videos.

The company denied the claim, but there was no attempt at the start of the inquiry to corroborate or disprove this controversial account.

Captain Melcio Barranco of the ferry Don Claudio, the first vessel to reach the scene of the collision in the Tablas Strait off Mindoro Island, told the inquiry that the two ships disappeared in a huge ball of flame minutes after survivors were plucked from the water.

Captain Barranco said that the flames were so large that even with binoculars he could



A woman searching a coffin-filled sports stadium in Manila yesterday for relatives missing in the Philippines ferry disaster.

not distinguish the 2,215-ton Dona Paz or the 629-ton Victor.

Captain Barranco told the Coast Guard's Board of Marine Inquiry that the stricken vessels appeared on his radar screen only as one mass, and he could see neither of them because of the fire, which he described as being "as big as a 10-storey building".

He added: "A big ball of flame shot up into the sky. When the flames subsided, the object on the radar screen was gone."

He said the apparent explosion came after his crew had hoisted on board the last of the 26 people known to have survived the disaster. They included 24 passengers from the Dona Paz and the two tanker crewmen.

"We scanned the area several times after we rescued the 26 and we found nothing," he said.

Captain Barranco said none of the 26 survivors had life jackets when plucked from the

sea. The Coast Guard said 133 bodies had been recovered.

Earlier, Mr Gambito said he was not aware of the Dona Paz sending any distress messages and presumed it was because the collision and fire happened very quickly.

Captain Barranco said his



Captain Darío Fajardo, who heads the disaster inquiry.

radio operator did not pick up any distress signals from the Dona Paz or the tanker.

On questioning by board members, he said the two tanker crewmen told him they were asleep when the collision happened.

"They said that when they woke up, their ship was already on fire and they immediately jumped into the water," he added. He said they had only minor burns.

Sulpicio Lines officials said earlier that 1,583 passengers and 60 crewmen were listed on the Dona Paz manifest. Philippine passenger manifests are notoriously inaccurate, because they do not include children and people who buy tickets on board ship.

Replying to questions by board members and lawyers representing the victims, Mr Gambito said that, in addition to the crew, the Dona Paz had at least 1,480 paying adults, 26 paying "half adults" (children approaching their teens) counted as 13 people, and 56 non-paying minors on board.

The figures added up to 1,562 passengers, 44 more than the ship's authorized passenger capacity of 1,518.

The hearing was continually disrupted by dozens of relatives of the ferry victims, together with journalists and television crews, who crowded around the conference table.

At the same time, a special Senate investigation into the disaster opened and adjourned, with the investigation chairman, Senator Ernesto Maceda, accusing the authorities of taking a "cavalier" attitude towards the inquiry.

Senator Maceda made his criticism after the marine authorities said it could be up to six months before any findings were known.

"My impression is that the Coast Guard and the Navy are not treating this with as much seriousness as they should," he said.

Senator Maceda said the morning's hearings had shown that the root cause of the problem was lack of ships.

Naxalite rebels kidnap Indian civil servants

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Naxalites, left-wing extremists who believe in armed revolution as the only way to bring social change, yesterday kidnapped eight senior civil servants in the south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

The eight were attending a meeting on tribal welfare in one of the poorest coastal districts of the state, East Godavari, when they were taken prisoner.

Later two women officers were released, bearing a demand from the guerrillas for the release of eight members of the guerrilla band who have been jailed.

The Naxalite extremists have been increasingly active in 10 districts of the state. The name comes from Naxalbari in West Bengal, where the first Naxalite uprising began in 1967. It was firmly put down there by the then Chief Minister, Mr Siddharth Shankar

Ray, who is at present Governor of Punjab.

But the movement found fertile soil among the poorest classes in Andhra Pradesh, and there are now thought to be more than 5,000 activists enlisted in a dozen or more groups, many of whom are at war with each other.

This year has seen a serious increase in their activity with 62 people, including 24 policemen, killed since January.

The most militant of the factions, which has been especially active in East Godavari, is known as the People's War Group, headed by a 66-year-old revolutionary Mr Kondapalli Seetharamaiah. His men are organized in 50 bands, called *dahams*, and live in the jungles wearing olive-green camouflage uniforms.

The civil servants kidnapped include the principal

secretary to the Andhra Pradesh government, Mr S.R. Shankaran, and the district collector — the senior administrator — of East Godavari, Mr V.P.C. Sastri.

Five planeloads of central security forces have been rushed to Hyderabad, the state capital, to help to rescue the kidnapped officers. High-level meetings were being held yesterday in both Hyderabad and Delhi to decide how to tackle the kidnapping.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh, which is formed by the Telugu Desam, a party opposed to the Congress (I) of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, was bitterly criticized yesterday by a central minister, Mr J. Vengal Rao, who is also the state president of the Congress Party. He attacked the failure of the state government to control the Naxalites, who he accused of running a parallel administration in five districts.

Film idol's mistress and wife fight for his political legacy

From Our Own Correspondent, Delhi

The struggle for the leadership of the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu began in earnest yesterday as the former Chief Minister, Mr V.R. Nedumchezhian, announced that he intended to stay in the post.

The office was left vacant by the former film idol and populist politician, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, known as MGR, who died on Christmas Eve after 10 years in office.

The party that he founded, the All-India Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), which was essentially a vehicle for his personal political ambitions, is expected to meet later this week to elect a successor.

It will be a difficult task, for Mr Nedumchezhian is not the only one with aspirations to occupy the chair, and it is possible that there could be some damaging disputes before the matter is finally settled.

Mr R.M. Veerappan, Minister for Local Government, is the toughest current contender. He was also a film industry mogul and produced

seven of Mr Ramachandran's immensely popular movies.

He has already been seen to be making public moves in the direction of the Chief Minister's chair, in particular by sending a warm message of thanks to Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, who leads the Congress Party, with which the AIADMK is in alliance, and without whose approval no one will succeed.

But his election would undoubtedly split the party, for he is disliked as much as he is respected.

Miss C. Jayalalitha, Mr Ramachandran's former mistress, is another who fancies her chance of succeeding. She has been the party's propaganda secretary, and her several times larger-than-life cut-out photograph has been seen dominating the city streets alongside her leader's.

She has appealed to party members to remain calm and not to succumb to "deliberate machinations of a section of the party who are going all out to sabotage the ideals of MGR for their self-aggrandisement".

She also claimed that she

was the victim of a murder attempt at the funeral of the great revolutionary leader when she was killed in the head by another film-star politician, Mr Deepan, who is a nephew of MGR's widow, Mrs V.N. Janaki.

The anti-Jayalalitha group in the party is putting forward Mrs Janaki's name as a possible compromise candidate, even though she has never been active in politics. She has, however, gained a certain amount of respect since she was the main interpreter of the grunts and wheezes with which the great leader communicated after he lost the power of coherent speech three years ago.

Miss Jayalalitha's supporters say that Mrs Janaki may not even have been properly married to MGR. Certainly Mrs Janaki was the third person in an odd ménage à trois with his previous wife.

However, these affairs do not matter as much here as in the puritanical — and hypocritical — West and in no way diminished the respect with which any one of the contenders is regarded.

Fugitive to pay price of success

From Charles Bremner
New York

Success was always the trouble for Mr David Friedland. If he had not been so good at running a diving business in the Maldives Islands, he would not have ended up last weekend in a Brooklyn jail.

Mr Friedland, once a New Jersey state senator and lately one of the most pursued US fugitives, was brought back from his Indian Ocean island in handcuffs on Sunday to start a seven-year prison term. He also faces trial on fresh fraud charges.

In a case that echoes the tale of Britain's runaway politician, Mr John Stonehouse, Mr Friedland, a prosperous lawyer and businessman, staged his own drowning while diving off Grand Bahama island in 1985. He was then awaiting sentence for accepting bribes from the powerful Teamsters' Union.

Since then, using his charm, money and luck, he and his girlfriend, Miss Collette Gough, managed to stay one step ahead of the FBI and Interpol while he led the good life, travelling first class and staying at the best hotels in Paris, Venice, Hong Kong, Singapore and Kenya.

For the past 18 months, Mr Friedland, who is 50, was building up a successful chain of scuba-diving shops in the Maldives under the name of Richard Smith Harley. In a typical stunt, he posed for an island postcard feeding a shark with a fish from between his teeth.

"I can only tell you that David Friedland was captured because he was really too successful, he just caused too much publicity," Mr Arthur Borinsky, the US marshal for New Jersey, said. He flew back to a freezing Kennedy airport along with his handcuffed charge on Sunday night.

According to Miss Gough, Mr Friedland was turned in to the local police by resentful business rivals. The police matched him to Interpol data and handed him back to the US.

"I had a good time, but I'll tell you it's good to be back in the United States," Mr Friedland told reporters as police marksmen stood by at the airport.

But Mr Friedland said he was worried about his safety. He now faces charges that he swindled the Teamsters' Union, the most feared of the big labour organizations, out of pension funds while acting as a secret FBI informant after being "caught in his first swindle".

America fears erosion of its postwar military empire

From Michael Binyon
Washington

The United States is growing increasingly concerned that its ability to project military power abroad is being undermined as cuts in foreign aid, the rising hostility of foreign governments and changed perceptions of the Soviet Union threaten US access to vital military bases in at least five allied countries.

Last week Spain formally notified the US that it must remove its F16 fighter-bombers from Spanish bases by mid-1991, and Greece has opened negotiations to change the conditions under which US bases and facilities operate.

Tension in the two huge US bases in the Philippines, the leases of which soon run out, and in two other Nato countries, Turkey and Portugal, opposition to the US presence is growing, and the governments of both countries have indicated that they will curb base operations unless more US aid is forthcoming.

Dozens of air bases, ports, communications facilities and storage depots used by American forces in the postwar period are at issue. Closure or limits on base use would be a severe blow to the US in the wake of the military build-up here and at a time of increased challenge from Soviet naval forces.

Since the 1960s at least nine countries, including long-standing friends such as Thailand and Pakistan, have refused to extend base agreements. Now the US, incidentally, is having to negotiate with five of the remaining 19 nations where it still has facilities. What particularly worries Washington is the growing opposition to the US presence in four Nato countries, which depend on the alliance for their collective defence.

Some of the countries that once sought US military links now denounce such ties as colonialism. Some oppose agreements they believe would compromise their

non-aligned status. Others are demanding more US aid or benefits. And even countries which are willing hosts to bases are putting limits on their use, especially concerning nuclear weapons. Already the US has ended its military co-operation with New Zealand within the Anzus alliance because of the dispute over port visits by ships that might be carrying nuclear weapons.

The most pressing dispute is over the Torreon air base near Madrid. Spain is demanding a vastly reduced US presence and the withdrawal of the 401st Tactical Fighter Wing, consisting of 79 F16 fighters. The force is the biggest US air unit in the Mediterranean and the main back-

up force for Italy, Turkey and Greece.

After 18 months of fruitless talks, Spain has ordered all 4,500 US airmen stationed at Torreon to leave, and the future of 8,000 other US servicemen at the Rota naval base and 11 smaller bases remains in doubt. General Vernon Walters, the US ambassador to the United Nations, said that if Spain did not want US troops they would go. "We are not like the Russians, who either do not go or come back with tanks." But he added in an interview with a Spanish newspaper: "Americans won't forget. We shall not forget it was an unfriendly gesture."

This would be the first eviction by a Nato country since 1967, when France withdrew from the Nato's military command. Other Nato allies have called on Spain to reconsider, but nobody is offering to help defray the \$400 million (about £225 million) relocation cost.

Washington is worried that a withdrawal from Spain would have a psychological effect on other Nato countries of the southern flank, and on possible future Nato-Warsaw Pact negotiations on reductions in conventional forces. Mr Frank Carlucci, the new US Defence Secretary, said the American bases were so important that he would be glad to engage personally in negotiations.

Greece has said negotiations on continued US access to four bases and 20 other facilities must start "from ground zero" and Portugal has said that, if US aid continues to decline, Lisbon may reconsider continued US access to Lajes air base in the Azores.

Turkey negotiated a new agreement with the US last March, but has delayed ratification until it sees how much aid it will receive. With the US spending crisis, the chances are slim of getting the \$735 million promised.

Potentially, the most serious threat to US power comes from the Philippines. Hostility to the large number of Americans at Clark air base and Subic Bay naval base is growing. Three US servicemen were recently killed, and communist guerrillas have threatened more attacks. The agreement comes up for review next year, and the Aquino Government, itself very unstable, may impose unacceptable conditions.

Any insistence on banning nuclear weapons at the bases could set a dangerous precedent. The Philippine bases are essential in countering the large Soviet naval presence at former US bases in Vietnam, and most South-East Asian countries want the US to stay. Washington has contingency plans to move the Philippine bases to American-owned Guam or the Marinas Islands. But that would cost up to \$8 billion, and would add three or four days steaming time to the South China Sea.

The Reagan Administration is engaged in intensive talks with all five countries. But it is unable to promise more aid, and is having difficulty, especially in Europe, in persuading public opinion of the continued Soviet threat.

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and is a splinter group of the Catalan nationalist extremist organization Terra Lliure.

Police were aware before the latest attack that groups of Catalan nationalist extremists have maintained frequent contacts with Palestinian movements.

They have not yet rejected the possibility that the attack may have been the work of an anti-American Muslim organization hiding behind the guise of Catalan nationalism, or that "of some embittered American taking revenge on his colleagues".

Basque suspect: Spanish police suspect that a young Basque man arrested in a routine identity check in south-west France gave the orders for a car bomb attack which killed five young girls, three women, one young man and two Civil Guard policemen in Zaragoza shortly before Christmas. Spain will ask for his extradition, the Interior Ministry confirmed.

When the consulate was bombed, police found evidence to suggest a Middle East link. In the latest attack, a witness saw a swarthy, curly-haired young man, accompanied by another, throw two hand grenades into the entrance of the American servicemen's club in the port area, and said he shouted, "long live Lebanon" in Spanish.

Investigators believe the Red Army consists of only a few members

in a series of attacks the Red Army has concentrated exclusively on targets associated with the United States in the Barcelona area.

Before the fatal attack on the American servicemen's club, the last incident for which ERCA claimed responsibility was the bombing of the US Consulate in Barcelona on October 14, when eight people were slightly injured. Explosions at offices of the General Electric Company on May 13 and Hewlett-Packard on June 16 were claimed by the same organization.

Police suspect that the so-called Red Army for Catalan Liberation Army (ERCA), which in anonymous telephone calls claimed responsibility for the grenade attack, has ties with Arab extremists, informed sources said here yesterday.

Dr Eddison Zvobgo, the Minister of Justice, dismissed the criticism as "unseemly" and argued that it was "right and proper that we make a decent and dignified provision" for the former President. No other criticism has been voiced publicly, but it is anyone's guess how the issue is being debated in the country's beer-halls, where most patrons are on a minimum wage of \$2.85 (\$28) a month or unemployed.

But few would question his credentials or his performance as official head of state, dividing his time outside official duties between writing poetry and theology, refereeing national football league matches, patronizing his football club, conducting his choir, and

running a chicken farm on the grounds of the State House.

From the time the fresh-faced Methodist clergyman entered politics in 1971 against minority white rule, he was harassed by the Rhodesian authorities, serving time as a restricted person, detainee and prisoner (for leaving the country without a passport).

As a Ndebele, born near the site of the massacre on November 28 of 16 members of the religious community outside the western city of Bulawayo, he was considered the perfect diplomatic choice for President of a Government dominated by Shona-speakers from the east of the country.

His name became the butt of jokes in white Rhodesian

circles, and the nickname for whites resented black rule. In 1982 legislation was passed making it an offence to mock the name of the President.

Few here are aware of Mr Banana's crucial role in the two years of talks that finally last week resulted in agreement on a political merger between Mr Mugabe's ruling Zanu (PF) and the opposition Zapu party of Mr Joshua Nkomo.

Sources have confirmed that it was Mr Banana, following widespread anti-Zapu violence in 1983, who arranged for the first meeting between Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo, continuously worked to keep the meetings going, and in April upstaged Mr Mugabe for calling off the negotiations.

President Banana: It became an offence to mock his name.

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SPECTRUM

Facing up to a bright future

● Every year produces a batch of new, nearly new and new improved faces. 1986 was the year of Geldof and Wright, Hatton and Stalker. This year belonged to Cutting, Waite, Saunders and Bennett.

● So who will come to the boil or rise to the occasion next year? We asked *The Times* correspondents to nominate the faces to watch out for in 1988

AIR

Denis Tunicliffe
Aged 44, chief executive of International Leisure Group's Aviation Division — the head of Air Europe. Former pilot, shop steward and senior manager with British Airways

"He will lead Air Europe's drive to become main competitor for British Airways on scheduled services to Europe. He has already produced plans for the airline, equipped with the most modern jets, to fly businessmen to eight European destinations from Gatwick and use the same aircraft to fly package holidaymakers."

Harvey Elliott,
Air Correspondent

CHARITY

Francis Khoo
Aged 39, Catholic Chinese Singaporean. Trained as a lawyer and practised at the Singapore bar, taking up civil rights and trade union causes. Narrowly escaping arrest he fled to Britain

"As successor to 'Gorgeous' George Galloway at War on Want, Khoo, who describes himself as a tough cookie, will have his work cut out keeping the charity out of some of the limelight forced on it by its previous general secretary. But his non-sectarian approach and legal training should help."

Rosemary Unsworth,
Diary Editor

CINEMA

Sheila McCarthy
Stars in shoestring budget film, *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*, which opens in London in 1988

"She is a comedienne who is funny and stylish without being aggressive. Her new film in which she plays the part of an organically impaired secretary has topped *Variety* magazine's box office chart."

David Robinson,
Film Critic

ARCHITECTURE



John Simpson
Architect, aged 33. Trained at the Bartlett School of Architecture, London. Designer of private houses, an hotel and 300-house new village in Berkshire

"Practises what the Prince of Wales preaches: classical architecture of human scale and in traditional materials. Influence belies hitherto low profile."

Charles Knevit,
Architecture Correspondent

ATHLETICS

Jamie Henderson
Aged 18, he won the European Junior 100 metres, breaking Peter Radford's long-standing British under-20 record

"He has got the individual talent to follow in a fine tradition of Scottish sprinting. Not only does his European win make Henderson the favourite for the 1988 world junior sprint title in Canada, but the youngster is looking a likely member of Britain's senior athletics team for the Olympic Games in Seoul."

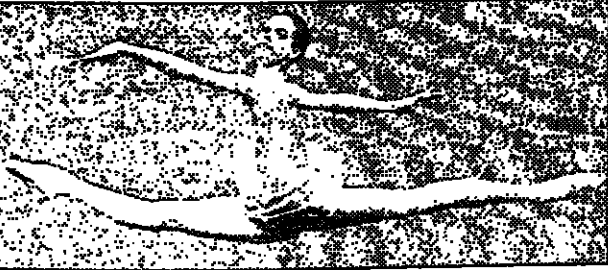
Pat Butcher,
Athletics Correspondent

BOOKS

Jeanette Winterson
Aged 28, won the Whitbread Prize for a first novel *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* in 1985

"She is funny, and owl, and original. Winning literary prizes is lottery not merit, but she will in any case delight fans and spread her name wider among the reading world next year."

Philip Howard,
Literary Editor



CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1449

ACROSS

- 1 Reap (6)
- 5 Ungainly spread (6)
- 8 Fringe (3)
- 9 Feeling of disgust (6)
- 10 Overcharge (6)
- 11 Suggestive look (4)
- 12 Common Market administrator (6)
- 13 Valerie Price's husband (3,5,5)
- 17 Like to listen (8)
- 19 Specific place (4)
- 21 Wandering (6)
- 23 Mournful (6)
- 24 As well (3)
- 25 Fragile (6)
- 26 Colonize (6)

DOWN

- 2 Rub out (5)
- 3 Ovary/placenta hormone (9)
- 4 Sham therapy (7)
- 5 Asparagus stalk (5)
- 6 Decay (3)
- 7 Authorisation (7)
- 13 French breakfast roll (9)
- 15 Sexually dissolute (7)
- 16 Jewish quarters (7)
- 18 Sandwich (5)
- 20 Wartle (5)
- 22 Fit with weapons (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1448

ACROSS: 1 Discs 5 Mite 8 Peaky 9 Extract 11 Croopier 13 Aged 15 Ruth Ellis 18 Lits 19 Fireware 22 Soprano 23 Regal 24 Levy 25 Siding

DOWN: 2 Idaho 3 Coy 4 Siege 5 Mute 6 Teargas 7 Sauce 8 Pity 12 Pete 14 Slim 15 Relapse 16 Bias 17 Belle 20 Argon 21 Zany 23 Rod



Rising stars: clockwise from left, Pandora Delevingne, socialite; the Rt Rev Colin James, ecclesiastically promising; Christophe Noevelli, top chef; and John Barnes, football's brightest hope



DEFENCE

Air Chief Marshal Sir David Craig
Aged 58, currently Chief of the Air Staff and strongly tipped to take over the top military job in Britain, the Chief of the Defence Staff, next November

"Sir David has a reputation for quiet authority, an uncontroverted character, capable of ensuring harmony amongst the three armed services."

Michael Evans,
Defence Correspondent

FOOTBALL

John Barnes
Aged 24, England international and Liverpool winger

"In spite of his golden goal in Brazil in 1984, only since moving to Liverpool has he started to develop into potentially the most exciting individual in British football since George Best. A deceptively casual, talented winger."

Stuart Jones,
Football Correspondent

MEDICINE

Professor William Jarrett
Aged 59, head of veterinary pathology at Glasgow University. He is leading British research for an AIDS vaccine

"Jarrett developed the world's first vaccine for leukaemia in cats which provided vital insights into AIDS. Experts in Britain and America believe that his work is among that most likely to deliver a successful vaccine in the next few years."

Thomson Prentice,
Science Correspondent

POLITICS

Michael Howard
Aged 46, MP for Folkestone since 1983

"A polished barrister, he caught the eye first as a junior minister at the Department of Trade and Industry. Now he has the mammoth task of seeing through the Community Charge legislation. Success with the poll tax should guarantee him a Cabinet place before the end of this Parliament."

Robin Oakley,
Political Editor

RETAILING

Alistair Grant
50-year-old Scot, already group chief executive of the Argill Group, becoming chairman in 1988

"Argill Group failed to take over Distillers but by buying the Safeway supermarket chain they control 10 per cent of the market. Now Grant plans to turn 180 of Argill's Presto supermarkets into the successful Safeway format."

Derek Harris,
Commercial Editor

TELEVISION

Holly Aird
Television actress for 10 years, but still only 18

"Her Juana Carberry, caught up in the degenerate expatriate world of *Happy Valley*, was one of the performances of 1987. Look out for her in 1988 in *Inspector Morse* and a new BBC sitcom, *Echoes*."

Peter Waymark,
Television Editor

TENNIS

Clare Wood
Aged 19, reached semi-finals of Britain's National Championship in October, winning mixed title with Chris Bailey. Recruited to Wightman Cup team

"A sound and talented player, she is also a good athlete with a competitive nature."

Rex Bellamy,
Tennis Correspondent

THEATRE



Nick Ward
25-year-old Australian-born playwright-director

"From his Fenland tragedy, *Apert*, from George, Nick Ward emerges as an artist with two pricing gifts: the ability to 'play' the stage like a musical instrument; and to make the theatre speak through inarticulate characters."

Irving Wardle,
Theatre Critic

TRADE UNIONS

Neil Milligan
New general secretary of train drivers' union ASLEF. Born during General Strike in 1926, he joined ASLEF in 1943

"Britain's newest trade union general secretary believes much of 1988 will be spent 'making the Government understand that advances made by our productivity should not be thrown away by cuts in investment'."

Tim Jones,
Labour Correspondent

WEATHER

Professor Robert Pearce
Head of meteorology at Reading University. Author of *The Physics of Hurricanes*

"One of the two professors appointed to inquire into the Meteorological Office. He correctly forecast the hurricane force winds which caught the Met Office by surprise."

Pearce Wright,
Science Editor

Compiled by
Suzanne Greaves

DEFENCE

Air Chief Marshal Sir David Craig
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THE TIMES DIARY

Return of Gowrie?

The 50 or so guests at the Prime Minister's party at Chequers on Boxing Day were abuzz with the favour Mrs Thatcher bestowed on Lord Gowrie, the former arts minister who resigned two and a half years ago on the grounds that he could not live in central London on a ministerial salary of £33,000 a year. Because he was seated at her right hand on the top table, Gowrie, now chairman of Sotheby's in London, is being tipped as leader of the House of Lords if Lord Whitelaw is forced by his recent stroke to lessen his heavy workload. Gowrie's free-wheeling and slightly bohemian lifestyle (and appearance) are said to appeal to Mrs Thatcher, who finds his company a refreshing change from that of some of her less lively Cabinet members. The question remains whether Gowrie could live on the £40,000 plus now paid to Cabinet ministers.

Rochester row

The Crookford preface affair is far from over. Following the allegations of nepotism by the Archbishop of Canterbury and his cronies, all eyes are now on who will get Rochester, the next important bishopric to be re-appointed. I hear the favoured candidate to succeed Bishop Sey on retirement is the Right Rev Richard Third. As Bishop of Dover he is senior suffragan in the Canterbury diocese, and described by cynics as the archbishop's episcopal crutch, since he runs the diocese's day-to-day business. Post-practice, however, I'm told his closeness to the throne may now embarrass the Crown Appointments Commission, chaired by Robert Runcie with the Archbishop of York as vice-chairman, out of giving him the job.

● The Afghan embassy has clearly fallen on hard times. Despite the country's decision last July to drop the first two words of its former title — "The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan" — Christmas cards incorporating the old title were sent out, bearing the unmistakable signs of Tipp-Ex on the out-of-date words.

Country style

It's not only the art-buying Soviet government that is in spending mood (PHS December 24). Moscow watchers have been pondering the 75 readers' ads in a supplement published with the evening paper *Vechernyaya Moskva* seeking country homes. It is clearly a seller's market as only 15 dachas are listed for sale. One theory for the property boom is that money-minded Muscovites are anticipating price increases once Gorbachev's economic reforms start to bite. The next thing you know, Sir Terence Conran will be opening up in Moscow offering a range of pseudo-peasant furnishings.



Model worker

There has been a second cultural revolution in China. For the first time judges of a national art exhibition have awarded prizes to an abstract painting and a nude. Until now only solid socialist art has been officially appreciated and as recently as last year nudes were removed from gallery walls. But it hasn't taken the art world long to make the most of the retirement of two reactionary party chiefs in October. The *China Daily* noted that most of the 440 oils on show in Shanghai had no moral or political message.

Power play

Reunions are expected at Cambridge University next month when its senate committee meets to decide what to do about a petition, signed by nearly 200 dissident dons in November, calling for an investigation into the way the university is governed. One option is to establish a syndicate of inquiry — to probe claims that it is undemocratic and inefficient, and is trailing Oxford in the race for research funding. But even if the council, which meets on January 18, decides to go for the syndicate, difficulties are predicted over the search for a Solomon to head it. Some dons favour a sensitive academic, others an abrasive industrialist, albeit with intellectual credentials, and yet more want a judge.

PHS

The old year ends with the Iran-Iraq war in a more fluid state than at any time since the initial Iraqi offensive was blunted six years ago and Iran moved on to the attack. Until the beginning of this year there seemed to be only one alternative to the continuing stalemate, an Iranian victory. Now the landscape looks different.

First, the Iranian offensive launched against Basra last January petered out with only a few bloodsoaked miles of ground to show for it. The Iraqi defences have since been strengthened and the Iranians have yet to launch another mass assault. This could come any day, but the question has to be asked — is Iran at last showing signs of war weariness?

While an Iranian breakthrough on land seems a little less likely than it did a year ago, the war at sea has been internationalized, a factor that operates in Iraq's favour. Iran needs peace in the Gulf waters; Iraq does not. There are now more than 70 foreign warships in the area and the United States has the firepower to inflict massive damage on Iranian military and economic targets.

The Iranian strategy of retaliation against Iraqi attacks on shipping, intended to alarm the Gulf states into pressurizing Iraq to desist, has failed. Iran faces not only the damage inflicted by Iraqi aircraft but the ever-present danger of the direct involvement of the US navy. This raises another question — has the government in Tehran enough control over the Revolutionary Guard units in the Gulf to prevent some fanatical group from launching an attack on an American warship or directly

Gulf war tide turns against the Ayatollah

by Anthony Parsons

escorted tanker, thus provoking major counter retaliation?

Iran has over the past six months come under strong diplomatic pressure from the UN Security Council and the Arab League to accept a ceasefire. It was no surprise that Security Council Resolution 598 of July this year failed to produce quick results, but the council is now discussing the next step, probably a mandatory arms embargo against Iran. This will be riddled with holes, and Iran has already achieved some self-sufficiency in certain grades of weaponry, but it will add to the difficulty and expense of maintaining the war machine.

Moreover, the Arab League will persist in its efforts to wean Syria — Libya, Iran's other Arab ally, is insignificant — from her pro-Iranian stance. If this succeeds, the damage to Iran will not be decisive, but again will add to the burden. Moreover, the Gulf states are showing greater self-confidence in confronting Iranian threats.

To sum up, 1987 was a better

year for Iraq than for Iran, and Tehran faces harder decisions than does Baghdad. The Iraqis have only to reiterate their willingness to accept the Security Council resolution, if Iran does the same, to continue to build up their defences on land and to prosecute the tanker war to the utmost in the hope that a rash Iranian retaliation will draw the superpowers deeper into the conflict.

The Iraqis have to decide whether to launch another bloody and probably indecisive land offensive; how to deter the Iraqis at sea without bringing about direct US retaliation; whether to reduce the land fighting short of a full settlement (I still cannot imagine Ayatollah Khomeini or, in the short term, a successor government signing a peace treaty with President Saddam Hussein) or to scale down their original war aim, in pursuit of which over a million young Iraqis have been killed or maimed — namely the "punishment of the aggressor".

What they decide will depend

largely on domestic factors which are virtually impossible for an outsider to evaluate. If the Iranian leaders judge that the revolutionary spirit is still high and that popular morale is not wavering, they will forge on regardless of external pressures and the danger of escalation: indeed both might heighten the stimulus of the "enemy at the gate". But, if they judge that the constituency on which they depend — the urban artisan classes and the peasantry — are sick of the economic privations of war and the casualties, which must by now have affected the great majority of the extended families of Iran, they will be more likely to reduce the scale of the fighting on land, without publicly abandoning their war aim, than to accept peace terms. They would simultaneously try to develop international pressure on Iraq to abandon the tanker war. Perhaps this is the best that can be hoped, for the moment.

I cannot claim to be optimistic. Implacable vindictiveness and refusal to compromise have characterized Ayatollah Khomeini for 25 years, and he still commands semi-divine prestige. So long as he lives, the people of Iran may well have to face the hardest options. And, with the deepening internationalization of the war at sea, a dangerous split between the superpowers is always a possibility. It is some consolation that, if this happens, the conjuncture of American-Soviet relations is more favourable than at any time in recent years.

Sir Anthony Parsons was Ambassador to Iran 1974-79 and to the UN 1979-82.

David Walker on the exit of a complete public servant, and his selfless ethos

Goodbye, Lord Burghley



The guard drops: Sir Robert argues with a photographer at Heathrow

Cecil. Yet Butler is Armstrong's chosen man. It is of course the Prime Minister who makes the appointment, but the shortlist is drawn up by the incumbent. In this case Butler was favoured over other contenders.

Like Armstrong, Butler is a born courtier, mannered in the English way; in seamless continuity he is already serving as Cabinet Secretary, as Armstrong has let the skins of power fall from his hands over the past couple of weeks.

Sir Robert succeeded in that job, which is to administer the machine that provides the Prime Minister and the Cabinet with the paperwork they need to govern. The Cabinet Secretary is the funnel; he prepares the Cabinet's agenda and writes the Cabinet minutes (and if one is to believe Tony Benn's diaries, he has the power to rewrite history in the course of doing his job). The machine has continued to tick over, come fire, ice or the rise to power within the court of new men, notably Bernard Ingham, Mrs Thatcher's press secretary, to whom Armstrong has come to defer in most media matters.

After his recent visit to Sweden, which has one of the lowest unemployment rates in Europe, Norman Fowler, the Employment Secretary, will soon see at first hand how the United States tackles the jobless problem. Significantly, the Swedes and 40 American states operate a form of Workfare, which requires the long-term unemployed to do community work in return for their social security payments. Speculation is inevitably growing that the government is considering a similar system here.

Would it succeed? Supporters argue that it is in the best interests of anyone who has been unemployed for six months or more to be given constructive work or training. They say the social costs of having so many able-bodied people unemployed, demoralized and seemingly rejected are underestimated. The benefit of Workfare to everyone concerned would outweigh any taint of conscription and cheap labour.

A recent study financed by the Department of Employment and carried out by the Employment Research Centre at Buckingham University pointed to the "culture of unemployment" and "social security on request" resulting from the present system; Work-

On occasion he has been prepared to cross Mrs Thatcher's Elizabethan will, for example advising her not to appoint Lord Young chairman of the Conservative Party while remaining Secretary of Trade and Industry. When they come to write the epitaphs, this will be accounted his greatest feat: keeping the machine running despite the rugged nature of prime ministerial desire.

But in other respects Armstrong can hardly be said to be leaving office covered in laurels. Like another institution with which he is deeply involved, the Royal Opera House, Whitehall faces acute problems of finance and morale. Armstrong has raised suggestions that he or his successor should divest themselves of the other hat they wear, that of head of the Home Civil Service, but his own performance under it has been indifferent.

In an era of change and uncertainty, Whitehall has cried out for leadership, if only symbolic, and looked to Armstrong. He, in return, is credited with a concern for holding the Civil Service together. He has tried to be

emollient with the unions after the decision to ban union membership at GCHQ, Cheltenham (which he is said to have advised against). He has been a good listener — according to an older style of personnel management where the chap with a grievance came to you privately for a chat over a glass of sherry.

But it is difficult to detect the man's mark on the major managerial revolution which is now well under way. Armstrong has of course endorsed the private sector disciplines imported into Whitehall in the Financial Management Initiative but has, on occasion, appeared wistfully to regret the passage of an older style of management.

The Prime Minister provided the initial impetus together with the men she brought in from the private sector, notably Lord Rayner. Since then the torch has been carried by individual officials, though a significant number of them have since left the Civil Service — and not just for money. They have gone because the old public service ethos, embodied in Sir Robert, now sits uneasily with the competitive spirit of private industry. Civil servants lack a sure sense of purpose. Finding this will be one of his successor's most pressing tasks, if the drain of high flyers and the difficulties in recruiting the best graduates are to be reversed.

There is a common story among officials. It is about the minister who, meeting in a corridor a bright young thing recently in his private office, discovers she is about to leave the Civil Service for the private sector. Instead of expressing even a little regret at the loss to public administration, he laughs and congratulates the official on joining the "real world".

In some ministers that attitude of dismissal creeps into contentment for public service. Armstrong cannot be held responsible for politicians' views, but he must be called to account for the absence of a coherent personnel policy in Whitehall. His doctrine of service for its own sake is no longer enough to carry civil servants into the 1990s.

Burghley served a Queen beset by enemies at home and abroad. Armstrong's motto of unstinting service to ministers has been subverted by ministers who more than once have insinuated that civil servants themselves are, if not the enemy within, then a fifth column. He has not tried to resolve the contradiction, preferring to remain — as the historians judged Lord Burghley — "an eminently safe if not heroic figure" to whom in extremis prime ministers can turn with utmost assurance.

Workfare? What kind of work would be done? Mitchell sardonically remarked that, thanks to the Community Programme, Britain would soon have the nearest graveyards and best-painted pensioners' homes in Europe.

More sinisterly, he believed the time was rapidly approaching when jobs that should be done by people for normal wages would be done by those on Workfare at a lower rate. It was all a Tory plot to depress pay levels.

On this score the deeply sceptical Joe Kenyon of the Claimants' Union offered some simple arithmetic: if people on the scheme received, say, £30 a week for a 40-hour Workfare week, how many employers would offer an extra £10 a week to join the company and then quietly shed workers earning £70 or £80?

Workfare was unlikely to succeed, Kenyon added, because it did not solve the problem of how to support those who chose not to take part. Any change in the system should be directed at redesigning the training courses already on offer so that they provided solid, worthwhile qualifications that allowed the chance of a new career.

Ronald Faux

Ben Pimlott

Why the centre always folds

Will 1987 be remembered as the year in which the forward march of the centre halted? It seems quite possible. Certainly the past 12 months have the hallmark of a major turning point — comparable in gravity to 1963 for the Tories or 1981 for Labour.

A year which began with centrist optimism is ending with a bout of Alliance self-mutilation more pathological than anything witnessed in the Labour Party at the start of the decade. Labour has always had a culture of internal strife. A rough and dirty game of inter-faction has been played in its labyrinthine corridors since the days of Keir Hardie. The Alliance by contrast imagined that it was inspired by a different kind of tradition. Its very name was intended to symbolize the harmony that supposedly existed within its ranks — unlike those of the old parties, perpetually engaged in something which the Davids loftily termed "this adversarial politics".

The Alliance was to be a communion of all that was good, decent and sane in British politics. On the one hand there was the SDP, composed of rational, co-operative and moderate, in every sense of that soothing word, elements within a Labour Party that had become preoccupied with conspiracies and feuding.

On the other hand there were the Liberals, who had always been agreeable and mild-mannered. The betrothal and eventual marriage of the two were expected to produce a family atmosphere of hard-headed niceness, representative of a sensible middle opinion that rejected the small-minded place-seeking of Conservatives and socialists.

Against this background a public and private abuse exchanged by Alliance politicians in recent months has been much worse than an embarrassment. It has ended a dream. Few of the SDP professionals and experts who once gave the Alliance weight are still actively engaged. Meanwhile, the second tier ex-MPs and hopefuls are peeling off one by one as the prospect of a return to Parliament fades.

For Liberals who always resented the Social Democrats this may appear a victory — the end of a stormy episode that will enable Liberalism to resume its upward path. In fact it is a bad defeat which makes nonsense of any claim to progress since 1979. In addition, it may be symptomatic of an ailment which (history suggests) British Liberalism has been able to contain only during its periods of irrelevance.

"All centre and no circumference" was how William Harcourt, a radical Liberal, put it. Lacking the social ballast of the Conservative and Labour parties, centre formations in British politics have an unlucky tendency to blow themselves to bits. Add to this the philosophical individualism of

Liberals, in contrast to Labour collectivism and Tory deference, and the prospects for a sizeable and well-disciplined parliamentary party of the centre become remote indeed.

Labour is actually more solid than it looks. True, since 1914 there have been seven breakaways or socialist rivals to Labour strong enough to take more than one MP with them or to win seats from scratch. But in the end, all has been chips and not splits. Though National Labour in 1931 and the SDP half a century later did Labour electoral damage, none of the seven came to much, and the bulk of the Labour movement remained firm. By contrast the Liberals, with no equivalent extra-parliamentary movement in the background, have been sliced and sliced again.

Liberalism began to divide in 1886, when Chamberlain took anti-Home Rulers into the Liberal Unionist Party. Since the foundation of Labour, the Liberals' most fissiparous period was 1916-31. There were brief moments of unity. After the fall of the post-war coalition there was a merger of Lloyd George and Asquithian factions, but not for long. In the early '30s three Liberal crises emerged: Lloyd George's family grouping, followers of Sir Herbert Samuel, who supported the National government without joining (Samuelites), and followers of Sir John Simon (Simonites), who were for the government and of it.

Each successive split reduced Liberal electoral support. This in 1923, the Liberals' first election since the war as a united party, the vote was 14 per cent down on 1910. In 1931, the three Liberal splinters together grossed less than half their 1929 total.

Though Owen has never been a Liberal and neither he nor Steel has ever been prime minister, there is a flavour of the Lloyd George-Asquith rivalry about their conflict — with feelings of contempt, betrayal and vengeance playing a bigger part than differences of policy. Steelites will probably still be around when Owenites have long departed to work for financial houses and think tanks. But Dr Owen is likely to linger long enough to ensure that the recent slump in centrist fortunes is maintained for a considerable time.

Meanwhile battles among the Liberals, or whatever they end up calling themselves after the merger conference next month, combined with a critical lack of leadership, have left the centre without its only distinctive quality — good-natured reasonableness.

The centre may stage a recovery when the government's inevitable crisis comes, depending on how badly Labour plays its hand. But the period in which it was able to offer itself as a serious governmental alternative to the parties of left and right is over for the foreseeable future.

however... Henry Stanhope

Stranglehold on us all

Few can fail to have been moved by the manner in which, on Christmas Day, one lady held the nation in her thrall. In twos and threes, fours and fives, they gathered round, united in one great family by her words. As did Churchill during the dark days of the war, she reminded us of our heritage and made us proud. I am referring of course to Miss Marple.

The late Agatha Christie has become as much part of the British Christmas as Scrooge, church bells and Good King Wenceslas. Moreover, by delaying her dramatic entry until nightfall, she has extended the festive spirit by several hours.

When I was a child, the magic of Christmas began to fade shortly after breakfast by which time all one's presents had been opened and explored. It flickered into life again over the turkey (with all the trimmings) and plum pudding, then finally expired in the long reaches of the afternoon when the grown-ups slumbered after listening to the King.

But the magic of Joan Hickson as Miss Marple never fades. It acts as an embalming fluid upon an England that never was — except perhaps for a few old crusty colonels, the vicar, and misdeeds called Ethel. More than that, though, it acts like a drop of old port upon one's jangled nerves on Christmas night. After scanning *Radio Times*, passing quickly over the usual crop of Fred Astaire movies, James Bond (no doubt with Japanese sub-titles on Channel 4) and tinsel-wrapped Val Doonican et al, the sight of *The 4.50 from Paddington* steaming in at 8.15 was like that of a distant billowing sail to Robinson Crusoe.

Boxing Day promised to be something of a drag, washing up last night's glasses and clearing scraps of Christmas cracker from the sofa. So we solved the problem by going to a football match. We decided to see Arsenal play Nottingham Forest.

In truth, it was easier to hear than actually see them. It was the first time for many years that we had been to a football match on Boxing Day — or any other. We got up in leisurely fashion for the kick-off at 11.30 and started our trek across London as the metropolis was just rubbing the sleep out of its eyes.

It quickly became apparent, however, that 31,210 other people

had come up with the same idea. In consequence, after prising ourselves out of the train at Arsenal station we discovered that all the seats had already been sold.

"Better try the North Bank," said a friendly policeman, no doubt interpreting my red and white striped tie (a present for Christmas) as a sign of undying support for the north London side. So we did, and in no time found ourselves being swept along in a fast flowing river of red and white scarves, past steel fences, wire mesh barricades, machine gun posts and the other accoutrements of modern sport towards the towering escarpments which are, to Arsenal supporters, what the Dome of the Rock is to the followers of Islam in Jerusalem.

In my time I have stood gingerly on the terracing of Liverpool's Kop, Chelsea's Shed and even the famous Stretford end at Manchester, and I therefore know how essential it is to convince the home supporters that you are on their side. After all, if you were in the SS headquarters in Berlin during the Second World War you might have found it inadvisable to go round whistling *Rule Britannia* — however good it might have been for the ego.

Neutrality is never quite good enough, encouraging suspicion among one's new found friends. It is advisable to boo the opposition when they emerge, complain loudly about the referee when he penalizes a home player for tripping his opponent or kneeling him in the groin, and even to indulge in one or two lines of such old folk songs as "Go away Forest, Go away Forest, Go away". — though the verb employed on this occasion was more colloquial.

"Dunno which part of Nottingham the ref comes from do yer?" inquired my neighbour bitterly as Arsenal went one down. We nodded sympathetically. We saw little of the game of course, this pleasure being largely reserved for those over six feet tall. But the scent of fried onions and cigarette smoke was delicious.

We left a discreet 10 minutes before the end, just as the Metropolitan Police Cavalry was cantering into position for the exodus, like the Light Brigade at Balaklava lining up on the Russian guns. After all there was more Agatha Christie on Boxing night to look forward to...



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481-4100

DISASTERS IN MIND

We are being reminded on all sides as it draws to its close that 1987 will go down in British history as a year of national disasters. But will it, and indeed, should it?

To begin with, the human mind is equipped with a protective mechanism which enables it to expel, with extraordinary rapidity, what it is unendurable to remember. If this were not so, we should be less aghast than we are at the misfortunes, which have befallen us this year. In terms of scale, if not of frequency and variety, they have, in truth, been relatively small compared with many of the catastrophes which have fallen on us in the past and compared with those which are almost the common stuff of life in less favoured lands.

Who now remembers, for instance, the ravages of the great Spanish flu epidemic which killed 225,000 of our compatriots during only three months in 1918? We lament, and rightly so, the 21 deaths which resulted from the great hurricane last October; but a far greater hurricane (measured at any rate by its consequences) is now almost expunged from the national memory. In the reign of Queen Anne, a great gale blew up in the Channel, wrecking havoc both at sea and on the mainland, and killing 8,000 people, most of them English.

The terrible Zeebrugge disaster has often been exceeded in horror by other sea-faring calamities, only a few of which, like the sinking of the Titanic, are now intermittently recalled. The Hungerford massacre represents something fairly familiar in different parts of the world — mass and motiveless murder by maniacs, many other examples of which have, alas, yielded a worse death toll. Thirty people were killed in the Kings Cross tube fire, 43 in another tube disaster at Moorgate as recently as 1975 and 173 in a wartime tube calamity at Bethnal Green, when a crowd rushed into the underground station on hearing an air raid siren, and with horrific consequences, one person slipped.

The secular mind may take some comfort from surveying the history of disaster. On the whole, what it regards as the perpetual battle between rational man and the hostile forces of nature is not going too badly — at any rate, in such advanced countries as are not continually exposed to the peril of earthquakes and hurricanes. When such events occur, the

secular mind sets about considering what lessons can be drawn from them. It is predisposed to the view that if anything goes disastrously wrong, some human error which could be prevented by wise regulation must, at least in part, be to blame. This attitude is not to be despised. In another almost forgotten disaster there were, in London alone, some 2,815 deaths as a result of the great "smog" in 1951; they occurred in eight days. This sparked off a clean air policy which has abolished smog.

Yet the search for causes and culprits can reach the proportions of absurdity. Weathermen should predict the weather as accurately as possible, but they do not actually cause it and are not to be held to blame for hurricanes. It was wise of London Regional Transport to extend its ban on smoking on escalators and platforms after the Kings Cross disaster, but its decision to ban tobacco advertisements on the underground in response to this event represented superstition rather than reason.

Deep down, the secular mind knows that it will never wholly abolish disaster. Changing the gun laws will not put an end to motiveless homicide, though it may help. Nothing will ever make any of our systems of transport wholly safe.

For the religious mind the question is different: how can the idea of an omnipotent and benevolent God be reconciled with natural disasters which can never be entirely explained by human error or wickedness? Of all the inadequate answers given to this question, the most promising relate to the good qualities which disasters elicit. This omnipotent, omniscient and benevolent Dictator concerned to bring us to perfection in another world, occasionally and ruthlessly attacks our complacency and concentrates our minds on what we should be about. Perhaps, after all, He is a benevolent but irritable old gentleman with a beard who is determined to bring us to the salvation which He has prepared.

That at least is a rational explanation, though not one which commends itself to modern taste. It involves accepting the proposition that God, the Author of the universe, is not Himself bound by the morality which he has imposed on us — that He is the king of kings, and is not, say, a suitable candidate for the leadership of the new Alliance party.

PEACE PAST AND FUTURE

Will 1988 bring peace in Central America — or at least, peace nearer? In August President Arias of Costa Rica seized the initiative in the region. He secured a measure of initial agreement for his peace proposals, which called for amnesties, ceasefires, the cessation of outside support for irregular forces and national dialogues between Central American governments, both of the left and the right, and the guerrillas, left and right, opposing them.

He won the Nobel Prize, and is dedicating the proceeds to sustaining his scheme. Ideally, the Nobel prize-givers should have waited for the peace before awarding the peace prize. But, in so far as some progress towards a Central American peace was made in 1987, President Arias deserved praise and thanks — if not yet an award. And 1988?

Peace is not a process which can easily obey calendars and deadlines, though it is influenced by them. Next month the Central American presidents meet again; the United States Congress will once more be considering whether to allow aid to the Nicaraguan Contras. But, despite some real changes in 1987, the end of fighting is not in sight.

It is much easier to start the sort of guerrilla wars that are going on in El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua than to stop them. Credible amnesties, sustained ceasefires, require resources and discipline, not just the goodwill of a few negotiators. There are elements on the right and the left who are not inclined to stop when the whistle on violence is blown. At best the first phase of any possible "peace process" is a lengthy and frequently interrupted standing-to-arms.

There is still not much compromise in the Central American air. Compromise is an art that Nicaraguans, Salvadorians and Guatemalans have had until recently no chance to practice, and it shows. Making all allowance for the exaggeration of an opening bid, the Contra claim to interim control of something like half Nicaragua is not something which could have figured for long in the indirect talks which the Contras and the Nicaraguan Government recently conducted through intermediaries in the Dominican Republic. Turning to left-wing guerrillas, it is hard to see what gains, even in the nebulous role of propaganda, the FMLN can think to gain by mounting — as they are now doing — a military campaign on the slogan "if all can't eat, nobody eats", or by parrot calls for the end of aid to the country's

head of state, President Duarte. For progress one must look to changes of circumstances, not changes of heart.

Some change of circumstances has been visible in Nicaragua. The Sandinistas, for reasons of their own self-interest, do not wish to appear as the enemies of peace. The Soviet Union is not giving them any encouragement to hurry "on the path toward socialist orientation": they would be better advised to come closer to the wishes of the Contadora republics.

A Sandinista defector has carried information to Washington about a Nicaraguan arms build-up, but the current reality is more like Mr Gorbachev's recent claim that all the Soviet Union was supplying were some weapons "suitable for the police".

The Sandinista agreement to even indirect talks through intermediaries was a concession, and other concessions have been made such as the reopening of *La Prensa* and in dealings with *Radio Católica*. These may indeed amount to no more than a row of tokens, but the contest for minds in the US Congress still continues. The Contras' pulled out of the talks in the Dominican Republic because they objected to dealing entirely with intermediaries instead of moving to direct contact with the Nicaraguan Government. This was not the wisest response on the Contras' part, given the continuing controversy in Congress about which side really wants peace.

The Contras have had some success in preventing the consolidation of a Marxist regime in Nicaragua. They and the church have made it an embryo Central American Poland. But the country's economic difficulties are much worse than Poland's. There are strict limits to how much Russian support can be expected.

President Ortega is very much on the defensive. So is President Duarte in El Salvador, not so much vis-à-vis the guerrillas as with Salvadorian politics in general. In Guatemala too the Arias proposals are unlikely to make any immediate impact. Both countries show how this sort of war can persist: commissions succeed commissions, amnesties follow amnesties. Irregular war can only end in irregular peace. It is best to recognize that this is bound to be the case, and not to reckon too much on any one set of proposals or deadline. Central America in 1987 came a step or two closer to controlling its own destinies in peace.

Welfare claimants

From Mr David Foster
Sir, Here in Newham, where justice is available to all, like the City Airport, I read your leader, "Justice for all" (December 16), with distaste.

To describe the British legal-aid system as one of the best in the world is at best complacent. It ignores my experience and that of other legal-aid practitioners that the system is creaking — in some legal-aid areas delays of many months before civil legal aid is granted, despite the efforts of hard-pressed, underpaid staff. Further, there are large areas of current unmet legal need, e.g., legal representation before various tribunals.

Modernise and streamline the system, yes, but it cannot hope to be the cornerstone of any civilisation without substantial extension and a vast injection of public cash. In Newham, from my experience, the idea of private solicitors

competing with specialist agencies is farcical and insulting to the agencies concerned. The local advice agencies cannot cope with the demand for advice on welfare benefits and housing in particular. Therefore, they are hardly likely to wish to compete for a monopoly on such advice-giving, and certainly not if no more additional public money is to be spent than would otherwise be spent under current provision (the Green Form scheme).

For private solicitors to tender on the basis of meeting all demand for legal advice in these areas in Newham alone would require an inevitably unacceptably high figure.

The introduction of a contingency fee system in civil litigation would only have relevance in those cases where the relief sought by the client was substantial in compensation. In civil matters, the relief sought is frequently not compensation.

For instance, our clients are frequently concerned to enforce some basic right — e.g., the right not to be evicted without a court order, the right of a family to housing, the right of a tenant to repairs and the right of a claimant to a decision following an application for a welfare benefit.

Increasingly and disturbingly, such rights can only now be enforced by the threat of, or resort to, court proceedings. Specialist lay agencies are generally not as well equipped as private solicitors to go to law.

It is interesting, but also sinister, to note that, at a time when the rights of welfare benefit claimants and tenants are to be reduced by imminent legislation, it is now being mooted that their access to private solicitors should also be reduced.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID FOSTER,
Hereward & Foster (Solicitors),
Office A, 145 Barking Road,
Canning Town, E16.

Soviet future in Afghanistan

From the Ambassador of the USSR
Sir, Your leader, "The still bleeding wound" (December 28), finds "the contradiction between words and deeds" in the wrong place. In fact it is the Soviet stand that opens the way for comprehensive solution of the whole problem of Afghanistan. And it was explained in specific details to the leaders of the West.

May I reiterate the Soviet position for the benefit of your readers: political decision to withdraw our troops has been taken and it can be done within 12 months or less; the day foreign military aid to the Mujahidin stops, our troops will start leaving for home.

The Government of Afghanistan, officially recognised by Britain, is conducting the policy of national reconciliation which enables Afghans at home and abroad to participate in shaping the future of the country. National reconciliation is the only realistic way to a free, non-aligned, neutral Afghanistan without an ensuing blood-bath.

We support this course as well as the other approaches leading to a peaceful settlement. Some progress is there and we hope that the next session of Cordover talks will be not only fruitful but final.

Rejecting the option of the reconciliation as "capitulation", the West is in fact pursuing "more energetically" the military solution. And with more blow-ups in the pipeline the prospects of a political settlement become more distant.

The West's honeyed words about the need to end the Afghans' plight are contradicted by most unhelpful deeds. Yours faithfully,
L. ZAMYATIN,
Embassy of the USSR,
13 Kensington Palace Gardens, W8,
December 28.

Morris gallery

From Sir John Summerson
Sir, As a recent visitor to the William Morris Gallery at Walthamstow I welcome Roderick Graddidge's appreciation (December 22) of the gallery and its contents and his protest against its closure. But I strongly disagree with his suggestion that the contents should be made the nucleus of a museum containing "works by artist craftsmen right up to the present time". I can think of no more confusing and mind-boggling institution.

To be able to contemplate Morris and his circle in the sturdy, simple old house where he lived as a boy, with a few airy rooms, standing in a park and serviced by a small staff who know what they are about, is a pleasure and an inspiration. Would not the proper answer be for some of the many British industries which owe a long-term debt to Morris to come to the aid of the Walthamstow ratepayer and help to keep this treasure just exactly the way it is — simple, alive and small.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SUMMERSON,
1 Eton Villas, NW3,
December 23.

A handicap

From Mr E. W. L. Rogers
Sir, I sympathise with Mr D. B. Jenkin (December 18) in the predicament in which he finds himself trying to cope simultaneously with his woolly hat and his dog.

Would the ladies of his acquaintance not be happy, in such trying circumstances, with a greeting of "nods, and becks, and wreathed smiles"? Yours faithfully,
E. W. L. ROGERS,
2 Hope Cottages,
The Croft,
Bures, Suffolk,
December 19.

Speedy definition

From Mr Peter J. Hill
Sir, As I was awaiting the delayed arrival of the Suburban, Wimbledon and Waterloo train to Woking station this morning (December 14) a station announcement prefaced the imminent arrival of a "Network Express" service at the adjacent platform. This "Network Express" was the Waterloo-Exeter St Davids service and Woking was its first scheduled stop. It was destined to make a further 14 (it might have been 15) stops before reaching Exeter.

The announcement prompted me to wonder what definition British Rail applies to a "Network Express" and what constitutes a "fast" and a "semi-fast" service. Yours faithfully,
PETER J. HILL,
Little Gables,
Hook Heath Road,
Woking, Surrey.

Frozen waste

From Dr A. T. Lloyd
Sir, Yesterday I bought a litre of ice cream and found that it weighed 498 grams net. A brief calculation suggests that it was almost exactly 50 per cent air.

If food technology can achieve this, selling ice cream by volume rather than weight seems to be meaningless.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW T. LLOYD,
University of Newcastle upon Tyne,
Department of Genetics,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
Tyne and Wear,
December 20.

Finding cash for national health

From Mr Donald Keating, QC
Sir, Nearly 40 years ago, when the country was poorer than it is today, it could afford an effective National Health Service. Now we are told it cannot; money is needed to be put aside for tax reductions next March.

One accepts that income tax should be reduced for the lower paid and that there may be an argument for a reduction for mid-careers. But what is the need to reduce the highest rate — as has been suggested is likely — for the top earners? Most, from my observation, could not work harder; and a top rate of 60 per cent is richer compared with the top rates in the recent past. By any ordinary standards higher earners now have enough money. They can and do buy their country houses, French flats, German cars and English antiques.

The only apparent justification for a reduction of the highest rates of tax at the expense of public health care is the promotion and satisfaction of greed. There must be some, of whom the writer is one, who would forgo a reduction from 60 per cent if they thought the money released would go to the relief of the millions who do not have the benefit of schemes to provide private medical aid.

And if one turns to selfish motives, maybe the others might think of their old age. Their private medical schemes are likely to have gone and their pensions may not always be sufficient to cope, unassisted, with the very high cost of private medical care. Yours faithfully,
DONALD KEATING,
10 Essex Street,
Outer Temple, WC2,
December 21.

From Professor David M. Smith
Sir, Long-term answers to problems of health policy and finance require the debate to be extended well beyond recent media treatment. The issue of NHS funding is unduly restrictive, as is the preoccupation with hospital services and the recruiting of nurses. Too little attention is being given to primary care and even less to such closely associated services as medical social work. There is almost total neglect of the economic, social and environmental context within which illness arises.

That there is a crisis in the hospital sector is indisputable. It is not simply a question of shortage of money, however; the system is to some extent a victim of its own success in devising ever more sophisticated (and expensive) forms of treatment.

Resource constraints are now highlighting the distinction (and possible choice) between increasingly high-tech medicine which cannot be made available to all and a financially sustainable service at lower level, provided on the original NHS principle of

'Crockford's' preface

From the Reverend D. T. W. Price
Sir, I have a personal collection of 32 editions of *Crockford's Clerical Directory* and recently I re-read, to my immense profit, the prefaces to all the volumes since 1938. The preface to the current, nineteenth, edition does, I think, differ in tone from all the others. All contain urbane scholarly comments on men and matters, but opinions expressed, however cautiously in previous issues, are tempered with much more charity, and sometimes wit, than is evident in the nineteenth edition.

For example, the eighty-ninth edition refers to the popularity of Pope John Paul II and of President Reagan and the author cannot resist noting that the former is "much more intelligent" than the latter.

In the eighty-seventh edition Archbishop Cogan is portrayed as one who "rides out as a man with his mind made up, as a latter-day Don Quixote", while the eighty-fifth edition contains a clearly affectionate reference to "the deficiencies from a purely administrative point of view" of Archbishop Ramsey's primacy and a less kindly observation on Archbishop Fisher's "misuse of his retirement".

Damages awards

From Dr Robert Dingwall and Mr Paul Fenn
Sir, In considering the different damage awards figures yielded by the UK and US legal systems in the Open case (leading article, December 11), it is important to recognize what each includes. Compensation is intended to reflect the direct economic costs to plaintiffs. US jury awards generally assume that one third of the sum will go to lawyers on contingency fees and must cover the costs of medical care in a private system. Where earnings loss is involved, they reflect the higher income levels of a richer society.

All of these factors must be used to discount US figures before comparing them with those in the UK. The main difference is that UK judges treat pain and suffering as something essentially unquantifiable and therefore to be compensated in a token fashion: US juries can simply think of a number and double it.

On the basis of this centre's research on personal-injury litigation, the sums on offer seem to be generally in line with current payments in such cases. Yours faithfully,
ROBERT DINGWALL,
PAUL FENN,
University of Oxford,
Centre for Socio-Legal Studies,
Wolfson College, Oxford.

Cathedrals on the alert

From Sir Thomas Armstrong
Sir, In today's article, "Un-heavenly box office" (December 19), the Dean of Winchester is quoted as saying that in the second half of this century the cathedrals have moved from somnolence to become "centres of renewal".

As one who, between 1920 and 1950, was an organist in three cathedrals, I can from personal experience reassure the Dean. If he thinks that Manchester, with Gough McCormick and William Temple, Exeter, with W. R. Matthews, and Oxford, with A. T. P. Williams, were havens of somnolence he is seriously mistaken.

Yours sincerely,
THOMAS ARMSTRONG,
1 East Street,
Olney, Buckinghamshire,
December 19.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 29 1888

An excerpt from a long review of *Notes on Conversations with the Duke of Wellington*, by Philip Henry, with Earl Stanhope, which was published by John Murray in 1888

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

Few memories are more honoured than that of the Duke of Wellington, and yet we believe that popular impressions do D. M. SMITH, Dean of Social Studies and Director, Health and Health Care Research Centre, Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, E1, December 23.

From Sir Ian Morrow
Sir, If the Government was so ill-advised as to pass a law which said that every citizen was entitled to free parking space, the demand would soon outrun resources.

The National Health Service will never equate with demand as long as it is free to all corners. The whole question of the National Health Service should be rethought and adapted to a prosperous society. It was conceived when the assumption was that the country would have a permanently low standard of living. Yours faithfully,
IAN MORROW,
2 Albert Terrace Mews, NW1.

The seventy-fourth edition (1951-52) gave rise to considerable controversy, which led the author of the preface to the next edition to write of the possibility of the anonymous preface being suppressed. Any attempt at suppression "would not have succeeded". Critics, who included the Archbishop (of Canterbury?), were reminded that "those who value a cause highly (are those) who most resent the extravagances which discredit it".

To a priest of the Church in Wales, albeit one who was many years ago privileged to be a tutorial pupil of Canon Gareth Bennett, words in the preface of the eighty-second edition (1967-68) seem to be broadly true of the Church of England today:

A little more guidance [from the bishops] would at times be welcome. But it must be guidance and not domination, and of this distinction the Archbishop of Canterbury has usually been scrupulously observant since the responsibility of steering the ship was laid upon him.

Yours faithfully,
D. T. W. PRICE (Chairman, Church History Studies),
St David's University College,
University of Wales,
Lampeter, Dyfed,
December 18.

Getting the bird

From Mr Louis Herten
Sir, Surely your Delhi Correspondent, Spectrum, December 23) is mistaken. In my time in India we did not eat peacock at Christmas; the weight of their tail feathers made them too tough. Instead, we had peahen, which were known as Punjab turkeys.

About a week before Christmas, or Thanksgiving, groups of expatriates would drive out of Delhi well before dawn and shoot them while they still roosted along the irrigation ditches. Very unsporting, but we had sentimental families to feed.

Yours faithfully,
LOUIS HERTEN,
Fleet House,
Vale of Health,
Hampstead, NW3,
December 23.

Top of the morning

From Mr Brian Taylor
Sir, I wonder if I am alone in being mildly irritated by people who say "Good afternoon" in reply to my greeting of "Good morning" during the hour between midday and lunchtime? Yours sincerely,
BRIAN TAYLOR,
Ward House,
Walkhampton,
Yelverton, Devon,
December 14.

SOCIAL
NEWS

The Princess Royal and Captain Mark Phillips will attend a dinner given by the American Ambassador at Windfield House on January 19.

Princess Margaret will attend a gala performance of *South Pacific* at the Prince of Wales Theatre on January 19 in aid of the Royal London Society for the Blind and the Park Lane Group.

The Princess of Wales will open the maternity unit, ante-natal and special care baby unit at St Helier Hospital, Carlisle, on January 19.

The Duchess of York will attend a private view of the Childhood exhibition at Sotheby's, New Bond Street, on January 19 in aid of the Friends of Youth Clubs UK.

Princess Margaret, as President of the Invalid Children's Aid Association, will attend a reception at the Ritz Hotel on January 20 in connection with the ICAN centenary appeal.

Birthdays today

June Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, 74; Sir Richard Beaumont, diplomat, 75; Mr John Connell, president, Distillers Company, 63; Mr Bernard Cribbins, actor, 59; General Sir Robert Ford, 64; Professor L.C.B. Gower, former vice-chancellor, Southampton University, 74; Mr M. Hornby, chairman, W.H. Smith and Son (Holdings), 53; Mr Gilbert Hunt, company chairman, 73; Mr G.H. Newson, QC, 78; Dr Magnus Fyfe, nutritionist and broadcaster, 70; the Right Rev Mark Sauter, Bishop of Birmingham, 51; Sir Kenneth Sharp, accountant, 61; Mr Harvey Smith, showjumper, 49; Mr Jon Voight, actor, 49; Sir Edward Williams, commissioner-general, Expo 88, Brisbane, 66.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.V. Dawd and Miss S.J. Ross. The engagement is announced between Trevor, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Vincent Dawd, of Ilford, Essex, and Samantha, daughter of Mr and Mrs Barry Ross, of Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Mr P.N. Gadsby and Miss D. McElin. The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr N. Gadsby and the late Diana Gadsby, of Upshire, Essex, and Delia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J. McElin, of Colchester, Essex.

Mr M.D. Inglis and Miss P.J. Beveridge. The engagement is announced between Michael David Inglis, of Hillside Crescent, Edinburgh, and Penelope Joan Beveridge, of Summer Place, Edinburgh.

Mr D.F.M.G. Moncheur de Ruedotte and Miss K.M. Edgley. The engagement is announced between Dominique, younger son of Mr and Mrs Moncheur de Ruedotte, of Avin, Belgium, and Kathryn, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Densy Edgley, of Nuneaton, Warwickshire.

Mr P.G.A. Smith and Miss G.C. Brian. The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs J.V. Smith, of Stroud, Gloucestershire, and Gloria Christina, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.F. Brian, of Coulsdon, Surrey.

Mr J.N.W. Terakawa and Miss J. Shimizu. The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr and Mrs T.W.M. Terakawa, of 26 Westworth Court, Beech Grove, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, and Junko, daughter of Mr and Mrs Shimizu, of Fukui, Japan.

Mr A.J. Taylor and Mrs L. Hollishead. The marriage took place on December 24, 1987, in Richmond, Surrey, between Mr Anthony Julian Taylor and Mrs Lesley Hollishead.

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Churchill lights up at last



PC Claude Murrell and the guiding light in the gloom (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

By Ronald Faux

The disappearance each evening after sunset of the statue of Sir Winston Churchill into the gloom of Parliament Square irked Police Constable Claude Murrell to the point of informal complaint.

Mr Murrell, a great admirer of the statesman and a regular on the Palace of Westminster beat, suggested to the then MP for Harrow, Sir Jack Paine, that the granite likeness of Sir Winston facing Big Ben should be floodlit.

He said: "So many people asked me where the statue was and I would have to point into the outer darkness. So eventually I thought that it would be entirely fitting to have the statue properly illuminated."

"Apart from that it really seemed like spoiling the ship for a ha'porth of tar. It annoyed me immensely that the powers that be had so neglected the fact people might like to admire the statue after dark."

Sir Jack notified Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, whose second in command Mr William Waldegrave, Minister for Housing and Planning, replied that the idea was a good one.

Seven months later Sir Winston's building features were suitably illuminated to all in search of them after dark.

Mr Murrell said: "I'm delighted."

He said: "As one who served 17 years in the Royal Engineers around the world, I have a great respect for Churchill. Every night when the statue of King George V appeared in lights and Churchill faded into the gloom, it never seemed right."

OBITUARY

ANTHONY WEST

Chronicle of a famous literary romance



Anthony West, critic and novelist, best known for being the son of H. G. Wells and Rebecca West, died in the United States on December 27. He was 73.

The romance between Wells — then a highly successful author and public figure — and the talented and ambitious young Rebecca West, was a fascinating source of gossip among the British intelligentsia for a large part of the twentieth century. Their illegitimate son wrote two versions of the story.

The first, fictionalized version, was the novel *Heritage*, which appeared in America in the 1950s but which was withheld from publication here because of threats of legal action by his mother, who was now Dame Rebecca West and a formidable literary figure in her own right. It was finally published in Britain in 1984, after her death.

In the same year West also published *H. G. Wells: Aspects of a Life* — which made it all too easy to see why Dame Rebecca had been so anxious not to see her son go into print.

There was, to put it mildly, no love lost between mother and son. West hero-worshipped his father, and was convinced that his mother, when Wells refused to

marry her, had decided to take her revenge on the child.

Not that Wells emerged from his son's biography as simon-pure. The book, considering the extraordinary emotional background, and the need, as West saw it, to counter aspirations cast on Wells's reputation by his mother, turned out to be a valuable assessment of one of the great writers in the English language.

Anthony Panther West ("Panther" was the pet name by which Wells addressed Rebecca during their affair) was born at Hunstanton, Norfolk, on August 4, 1914 (just as German forces were sweeping

into Belgium, and the world that Wells's novels described was in a sense coming to an end).

He was educated at Stowe, and for a time was a dairy farmer and a registered breeder of Guernsey cattle. During and just after the Second World War he worked for the BBC, first with the Far Eastern Desk and then with the Japanese Service.

His potential as a man of letters was acknowledged when he joined the staff of the *New Yorker* in 1950. His literary essays attracted notice on both sides of the Atlantic, as did the first of his half-dozen novels, *Another Kind*. His first substantial work of literary criticism was *D.H. Lawrence* (1951), which was republished in 1966.

For a time he wrote criticism for the *New Statesman*.

His literary output was considerable in quantity and in merit. Many of those who knew him felt, however, that his place in literature might have been larger had his life not been dominated by so much family bitterness.

He married twice. There were a son and a daughter by the first marriage, and by his second wife, Lily, he also had a son and a daughter.

PROFESSOR ARTHUR DARLING

Professor Arthur Darling, CBE, who died on December 22, aged 71, had been a powerful figure since the war at Bristol University, where he was appointed professor of dental surgery before he was 30. From 1959 until 1982 he was professor of dental medicine.

Arthur Ivan Darling was a Geordie, born on November 21, 1916, and educated at Whitley Bay, Monkseaton Grammar School, and at King's College, University of Durham, where he lectured for a few years.

He was one of a number of young men of vigour and vision brought to Bristol after the war by the then Vice-Chancellor, Sir Philip Morris. As he fought to transform a small dental school, teaching only a few students with the help of honorary dental surgeons, into a well-equipped research centre teaching hundreds of students using its own full-time staff, his forthright and blunt northern approach did not always please the University Senate or the governors of the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

When he joined the General Dental Council he found that his Bristol reputation had preceded him and he had to fight to get what he wanted.

Not that he ever minded a fight. He welcomed opposition from whatever quarter and enjoyed his often lonely battles, whether they were brief skirmishes or prolonged sieges. After all, he won many of them.

In any event, the research reputation of his growing school increased as his own stature and achievements, notably on the structure of tooth enamel, progressed. The first Medical Research Council dental unit was set up at Bristol. Later, the Nuffield Foundation gave money for a research wing of the dental school. Meanwhile Darling gained a well-earned international name.

In all his various roles — professor, dean of the medical faculty, pro-vice-chancellor of the university, and in his activities with the College of Surgeons, the General Dental Council and the Department of Health — he had a reputation almost as a steam-roller. He would push his way through an agenda, but he was always aware when he had gone too far and would go out of his way to make sure that no feelings were really hurt.

He was, in fact, a skilful and adept academic and clinical politician. He was offered a vice-chancellorship elsewhere,

but chose to stay at Bristol — where, despite (or because of) his North-Country forcefulness, he became a persuasive peacemaker in the student unrest of the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Even — and, perhaps, especially — on such difficult occasions it was always possible to see his sense of fun — also visible on solemn academic occasions.

Darling enjoyed life. He was a bon vivant, a singer, a traveller and a fisherman, and he enjoyed working with wood. He made chairs and chests with patience and skill, gaining obvious pleasure from the making and from giving them away. Indeed, he was a generous, blunt, impulsive, warm-hearted giver of everything he had: his enthusiasms, his experience, his knowledge, his wisdom and his friendship.

He had qualified in medicine in 1947 and became a Fellow in Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1948. He was the author of numerous papers.

He held honorary doctorates from the University of Wales and the University of René Descartes, Paris.

He is survived by his wife, a son and three daughters.

MR R. M. P. SHIELDS

Mr R. M. P. (Mick) Shields, managing director since 1970 of Associated Newspapers and one of the leading figures of Fleet Street, died on Christmas Day. He was 66.

Ronald McGregor Pollock Shields was born on July 30, 1921, and educated at Swansage Grammar School and London University. He joined the Associated group, owners of the *Daily Mail*, in 1948 after war service in the Royal Artillery, during which he reached the rank of major in the Control Commission in Trieste.

He entered the higher reaches of newspaper management when he became group advertisement director of Associated in 1963. Among the specialized areas of

publishing that he mastered was market research, and he set up a small organization called National Opinion Polls: it developed into one of the major names in opinion polling.

The connection with NOP gave Shields valuable experience in the use of computers — which were to be vital when the new-technology revolution eventually reached the national newspaper industry, with its notoriously outdated production methods.

His promotion to managing director came at a critical point in the *Mail's* history. Talks had begun on the possibility of merging the paper with the *Daily Express*. Shields was at the centre of the rescue operation which estab-

lished a successful marketing formula which turned the paper's fortunes around.

An important part of his work was in reducing staff levels. Meanwhile, however, Shields was at the heart of the group's efforts to diversify, out of publishing into oil, travel and other industries; and geographically into the United States.

He was on the boards of a large number of companies which covered the range of the group's activities, and last year became also deputy chairman of the group. He was a director of Reuters Holdings.

One of his leisure interests was music. He was a director of English National Opera.

He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

RALPH NELSON

Ralph Nelson, the American film director, whose most controversial work was the 1970 Western *Soldier Blue*, died on December 21 at the age of 71.

He was a flamboyant character whose films were often criticized for excesses of sentimentality or violence. In *Soldier Blue*, US cavalrymen were shown raping, torturing and killing inhabitants of an Indian village. A decapitation scene became particularly notorious.

Nelson claimed that the film, which was based in true

incidents, was merely putting the record straight. But in several countries, including Britain, it was shown only after substantial cuts by the censor.

Born in 1916, Nelson won a *New York Times* oratory contest when he was 15, but his youth was more notable for his brushes with the law. His involvement in gang fights and a period travelling rough as a hobo led to several prison sentences.

During the 1930s he worked in the Broadway theatre, and for five years was stage man-

ager with the famous acting team the Lunts. He acted himself, once understudying Leslie Howard. He also wrote plays. Two of them, *Mail Call* (1944) and *The Wind* (1945), were given Broadway productions.

After serving in the US Air Force during the Second World War, Nelson went into television, and between 1948 and 1960 directed more than 1,000 drama productions. He won an Emmy award for *Requiem for a Heavyweight*.

It was a cinema version of that production, starring Anthony Quinn as the washed-up boxer, which marked his film debut, in 1962.

He gained a reputation for strong dramas which frequently leaned towards the preposterous. They included *Lilies of the Field* (1963), a sentimental piece about a black workman helping German nuns to build a chapel, which won an Oscar for its star, Sidney Poitier.

Another Oscar-winning performance came from Cliff Robertson in *Charly*, about a mentally retarded young man briefly cured by surgery. Nelson also directed *Father Goose*, a comedy with Cary Grant, and *The Wrath of God*, in which Robert Mitchum played a defrocked priest.

His cinema career tailed off towards the end of the 1970s, and he returned to television.

His first wife was the Hollywood actress Celeste Holm.

Science report

Mystery disease strikes at cattle

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The arrival of an unknown disease is inevitably a subject of curiosity and concern. When that disease appears to be confined to a single country — Britain — there are bound to be calls for urgent investigations and for more information to be made public.

So far, however, the veterinary profession has had to confess itself baffled by something called Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), a brain disease which attacks adult dairy cattle and causes dementia. Eventually the animals become completely unmanageable and dangerous to stockmen, and have to be put down.

Dr Tony Andrews, senior lecturer in Farm Animal Medicine at the Royal Veterinary College, suggests that the disease may well have been latent for many years and has only recently found receptive host cells, perhaps as a result of genetic modification. It is not caused by bacteria, he says, nor does it appear to be a true virus.

Although there is a genetic element to the disease, it is not thought to be hereditary, although it has yet to be seen whether calves born to infected mothers develop it.

The agent responsible is described as "unconventional", meaning that it does not provoke an antibody response, and so cannot be detected through blood tests.

The alarming symptoms make it easy to identify, but there is as yet no known way of treating it. So far it has attacked mainly adult, milk-producing Friesian and Holstein cows.

There is no indication of whether it can infect other animal species or whether it is zoonotic, namely transferable to humans.

There have been suggestions that it could be linked to a sheep disease called scrapie, which causes the animals to itch so intolerably that they spend all their time scratching and do not eat, and so die of malnutrition. There are also claims to be some similarities with a brain affliction found among an isolated group of cannibals in Papua New Guinea.

Among the few new diseases to have affected animals in Britain in recent years are parvovirus in dogs, which killed large numbers of puppies in the late 1970s but can now be controlled by a vaccine, and Feline Dysautonomia, a nervous disease in cats which stops them eating or drinking, ending in death from dehydration.

Dr Andrews does not as yet see BSE as a serious threat to cattle health.

It takes its name from the discovery that the brains of the dead animals are riddled with small holes, giving them a spongiform appearance.

British art

takes the world stage

British actors, ballet dancers, musicians and artists will be promoting British art during Australia's bicentennial celebrations next year.

Audiences in Russia and China will also sample some of Britain's best under a British Council programme to widen cultural horizons.

In July, the Royal Ballet will perform in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. The English Shakespeare Company will perform in Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra, Adelaide and Perth a month later.

The Academy of Ancient Music, performing a programme largely devoted to Haydn and Mozart, is due to perform in Sydney, Canberra, Hobart, Melbourne and Adelaide, and works by British painters and sculptors will be displayed in Sydney and Melbourne.

The British Council will also support British performances in the Berlin Festival. British orchestras and performers will play at a festival in the Netherlands marking the tercentenary of William and Mary, while a festival of British art in Los Angeles early in the new year will be attended by the Duke and Duchess of York.

The National Theatre will perform in Russia in June after an absence of more than 20 years, and Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet will give its first performance in China during a tour of the Far East from March to May.

Archaeology

Island that hints at Homer's epic

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

Excavations in Ithaca in the recent dig dates only to the time of Homer, who is thought to have lived in the ninth or eighth century BC, but pottery from the Protogeometric period (1050-900 BC) and the preceding Mycenaean period has also been found.

The Trojan War, if it occurred, seems to have been at the end of the Mycenaean period, and Professor Symeonoglou believes that Ithaca was occupied continuously from that time onwards, to the age of Homer.

"The tradition of Odysseus was not invented, it survived because of this continuity", he says, while admitting that "one faction of scholars say that Homer's stories are myths and have no relation to reality".

Professor Peter Warren of the Department of Classics and Archaeology at Bristol University believes that "at the heart of the matter Homer has nothing to do with it", and that establishing any connection between the archaeological results and the Homeric epics may well be impossible.

The oldest building found in the recent dig dates only to the time of Homer, who is thought to have lived in the ninth or eighth century BC, but pottery from the Protogeometric period (1050-900 BC) and the preceding Mycenaean period has also been found.

The investigations, directed by Professor Symeonoglou of Washington University in St Louis, United States, have taken place near the narrow central section of the island, which is shaped like a figure eight and some 17 miles long.

The location matches three characteristics of Odysseus's, Professor Symeonoglou says: it has ample spring water, commands a view of the harbour, and had a shrine to Apollo.

The shrine was originally discovered by British archaeologists in the 1930

THE ARTS

Underscoring Olivier



BEHIND THE FACADE

William Walton's compositions for Laurence Olivier included the scores for his classic films of *Henry V* and *Hamlet*. In the second of three extracts from the forthcoming biography of her late husband, Susana Walton describes a cordial personal and working relationship between

composer and actor which spanned more than 30 years

William first met Laurence Olivier in 1936, when he started with Elizabeth Bergner in *As You Like It*. The film's editor had been David Lean. Larry says he remembers William very well: he found him slender and good-looking with a dashing air, given by William wearing a trilby hat, turned down in front.

Larry got the impression that William rather looked down on him for being merely an actor. He was struck at the time by how pale William looked. He describes William in these words: pale green hair, pale green face, palest ice-blue eyes.

Seven years later, in 1943, Dallas Bower, a distinguished producer with whom William had become friends when working in the BBC, approached Larry with the offer of reproducing on film his famous interpretation of *Henry V*. The remarkable collaboration between Larry and William really started then.

Larry tells me that at the time he was still in the Navy and he didn't really know William at all, except that he had written the music for *As You Like It*. Dallas Bower came to see him, and said, "You must use this chap called Walton for the music." Larry queried, "Walton?" "Yes," said Dallas, "he's a bit modern, but writes a good tune." Larry replied, "Modern... yes, oh very good. That will be splendid. A real modern musician... Thank you very much."

William would say that Larry had definite ideas about the music, and thought he knew what he wanted. A famous instance was Larry saying, "Now this is a beautiful tune I've thought of - dum de dum de dum." "Yes," William retorted, "it is a lovely tune; it's out of *Meistersinger*." Now Larry says that he never attempted to tell William what music to write, although William always swore that he did.

As for Larry's thoughts on William's music, they are best expressed in his own words. "William knocked out the most fantastic score for *Henry V*; why it didn't win every award throughout the film industry, I'll never know, because it's the most wonderful score I've ever heard on a film. In fact, for me the music actually

made the film; otherwise it would have been a nightmare.

"For instance, the charge at Agincourt. It was 1943, so to get a horse that anyone could sit on, you had to go to Ireland. And even then, the only way you could get enough horses was to allow the farmers to ride their own horses. So the farmers were the knights in the charge scene. But the charge scene is really made by William's music."

Notwithstanding what Larry says now, the music for the charge at the Battle of Agincourt was a real problem for William. "Ten minutes of charging horses," William wrote ruefully to Roy Douglas. "How does one distinguish between a crossbow and a long bow, musically speaking? The whole work was pretty grim, although I managed it quite well."

It took eight weeks to film the battle sequence because of bad weather. Larry had to get up at five o'clock every morning to be fully made up because later in the day he was the director as well as the principal actor. He has often told me that the idea of shooting that scene made him terribly unhappy, he was really very worried about it. To start with, nobody believed in *Henry V*; that is, they couldn't imagine how it could ever be a success.

People thought it was cranky to put Shakespeare on the screen and they couldn't understand why Rank should have backed it.

However, the actors liked the idea, though the cameraman did not. Poor Larry felt that Bill Wall, the chief electrician, was the only one who truly understood what he was getting at, apart, that is, from William who trusted Larry completely. Larry recalls that when he first heard the Passacaglia on the Death of Falstaff, months and months before he really started shooting, he suddenly realised he had a great film on his hands because he found the music so moving and so exactly right.

In 1948, just before William and I met, William and Larry worked together on *Hamlet*. Larry had filmed it in black and white. He says he did so because he did not want the film to look "too pretty" - he saw



'Dashing' Walton and 'great Dane' Olivier, working on the film of *Hamlet* in 1948

it as an engraving rather than an oil-painting. He was also in the middle of a strenuous dispute with Technicolor, who were the only manufacturers of colour film at that time, and could not obtain the colour film stock he required. Hence the decision to shoot in black and white.

William was known to everyone on the film set as "the Doctor", so Helga Keller, one of the assistant film editors, told me later. She remembered William as being ultra-charming, with an amused smile permanently around the corners of his mouth, while he sucked his inevitable pipe.

William had a brilliant way of scoring beneath dialogue, Helga told me. He managed to hit the tone of Larry's voice exactly, as if it were just another musical instrument only needing the accompaniment of his particular orchestration. Helga remembers William bringing to the cutting room a set of records of *Henry V* as a Christmas present. He had queued for an hour at the record shop to buy it, which was typical of his sweet shyness, because he

could have requested the record company to send him a set.

Helga remembers the feeling of delicious excitement on hearing the *Hamlet* music performed for the first time, especially the beautiful theme for Ophelia. William was to use this again years later in *Troilus and Cressida*. Helga and Larry, who were seated in the same row at the performance of that opera, turned to each other when they heard Ophelia's theme, raising their eyebrows in recognition.

According to William, *Hamlet* had been a difficult film for both of them. Larry was made up as a blond and saw himself as a Dane, a great Dane. William felt compelled to do his best for a person like Larry; *Hamlet* won the Oscar for the Best Picture in 1948. After the usual troubles over finding people to put up the money, the success was such that the British Council circulated both films all over the world, to boost the British.

Many years later, William had agreed to compose music for a feature film about the Battle of Britain, feeling this to be a fine

patriotic subject. The producer, Harry Saltzman, better known as the producer of the original James Bond films, and the same Harry Saltzman who had once rented our house in Lowndes Place, showed William a rough cut of the film.

William was determined to write something rousing and British, something people would remember. It also amused him to discover that the German armies had marched into battle to the accompaniment of music by Wagner; William felt he could make good use of this. Malcolm Arnold was now a close friend and offered to help.

Malcolm was to conduct the recording sessions, as well as help orchestrate some of the music. Guy Hamilton, the film's director, told us that he was delighted with William's score, and we returned to Italy feeling that a good job had been completed. Imagine our astonishment, therefore, when some weeks later, one of the London evening papers telephoned to ask why Ron Goodwin had been asked to re-do the music for the film.

William was hurt to the quick. The film company had decided that William's score was not long enough. To issue as a gramophone record, William had written to the exact length he had been instructed, and it fitted the film perfectly. But "it would not have been impossible to write some more," William told me. "As it was, some composer or other took over." For weeks he couldn't sleep at night; the anguish that discarding his score caused him was devastating.

Laurence Olivier, who appeared in the film as Air Marshal Dowding, was furious, especially since William had written the grandest of patriotic tunes, which "out-gloried any he had written before, whether for Kings or Coronations" (as Edward Greenfield, who had been present at the recording sessions, wrote in *The Guardian*); this tune was to underline Larry's last appearance in the film as victory in the skies was assured.

Larry told United Artists that he would have his name removed from the credits unless they retained some part of William's music. Eventually, the producers compromised by agreeing to use five minutes of the air-battle music. William's only consolation was when he read *The Times*, after the premiere in September 1969: "... handsomely shot, soberly put together, but weighed down by a plati-tudinous score from Ron Goodwin. The only sequence of the rejected Walton score, the Battle in the Air, turned down allegedly because it was not long enough to fill an LP, is not perhaps vintage Walton, but at least lifts the film with moments of sharp excitement."

William Walton: Behind the Facade is published by Oxford University Press on February 14 (£12.95).

TOMORROW

Part 3: Sargent and Schwarzkopf and *Troilus and Cressida*

TELEVISION

Stylish jaunt

Not proper designers, nor yet fully qualified engineers, modern British architects have long demonstrated to princes and paupers alike an ability to create ugliness blessed only by its failure to remain intact. It was particularly sad, therefore, to be reminded by Charles Restie Mackintosh: *Dreams and Recollections* (Channel 4) that in the early decades of this century we so foolishly failed to exploit the talents of a brilliant avant-garde but practical architect who was also an interior designer of genius.

One piece of his furniture is enough to show that Mackintosh knew more about making beautiful things than any ungainly young fogey striving in dandruff-decked tweed to defend old aesthetic orders, let alone some neo-brutalist bristling in leathers to give the townscape a little hever with glass and steel. It was not quite clear from the programme, however, what style of clothes most typified Mackintosh. Apart from more conventional tops, there was a floppy *Death in Venice* white suit and a black cape and hat reminiscent of Zorro and a sherry advertisement.

A pair of Mafin sunglasses also made an appearance but not in the interests of historical accuracy, for this was a documentary slickly modish in its smooth bleeding of genres: a gentle ramble of discovery, in which you slowly discovered not all that much, with actors slipping in and out of characters and sometimes getting stuck half-way.

Tom and his wife, Kara Wilson, did the honours, both as investigators and the "Toshes". They made a very pleasant photographic couple on a cultural outing and got to wear their nice smiles in some nice places. Tom also got to wear a moustache in one scene, which proved he had grasped an essential design feature of Mackintosh's face, even if he wisely resisted the charade of sticking it on for every take.

The lack of hard core history and analysis would have been more irritating if a dominance of visual style, with Mackintosh designs and paintings staring, had not been so appropriate; the Crafts encountered some engaging characters on their travels.

Andrew Hislop

Angels and Gabriels blow it

This may be the season of goodwill, but it seems to me that my radio has spent a little longer than I should have liked trading on my forbearance. Indeed, as if to leave no room for doubt, Radio 4 devoted a whole hour - two entire programmes - to some extremely active trading around breakfast time on Christmas Day.

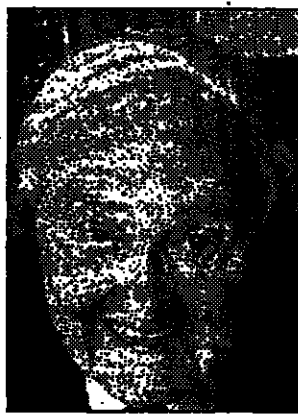
Maybe if you broadcast then, you calculate that everybody will be enjoying a Christmas stocking or worrying about the turkey and nobody will notice. Or else that, given such a start, anything that follows is going to sound just marvellous. Not difficult after *Vintage Archers* and *On a Wing and a Prayer*.

In the first of these, Tom Forrest and Walter Gabriel, on a Christmas Eve drive, look down on Ambridge and keel over into reminiscence: Mrs P's wedding, Jennifer's baby, Nelson's reappearance - all brought back with clips from old editions, but none of them quite long enough to make a solid mark and barely held together by the feeble framework devised for them.

If you are going in for nostalgia - for which *The Archers* offers unbeatable opportunities - you might as well do it properly and I believe this programme would actually have been better at double the length and in a more substantial setting. That would have had the additional advantage of saving us from *On a Wing and a Prayer*.

Brian King, who made this programme, is normally a producer of solid, well-crafted documentaries, so arguably he was unwise to stray into this man-meets-angel fantasy. Colin Semper, once head of BBC Radio's religious programmes and now a Canon of Westminster, was the celestial traveller and he should certainly have known that without exceptional talents to develop them such ventures prophesy disaster.

Anyway, while musing in the Abbey cloisters, the good canon runs into Gabriel (Archangel, I'm sorry to say, not Walter) and is afflicted by him to a meeting first with Michael and a junior angel, borrowed from Mark Twain, Captain Stormfield, and then with Satan. This last promptly embarks on a defence of his rebellion and this too had



Chris Gittins, as "Walter Gabriel", took listeners on an aimless drive.

been largely borrowed, this time from Milton.

I am told that Byron, Dante and a variety of ancient scriptures had likewise been raided for material. No harm in this - writers do it constantly - but the borrowings need to be digested and the borrower needs to have a scheme and ideas of his own big enough to absorb them.

Otherwise the result sounds as here: cobbled together and secondhand. As also tends to happen in such circumstances, the participation of four excellent actors (Barry Foster, Iain Cuthbertson, Peter McInerney, Terry Molloy) and their failure to save the day merely underlined the shortcomings.

As if this were not enough, only yesterday I spent another aggravating session with *Space Children* (Radio 4), a musical by David Ray Markham about a group of children sent from a world their parents have rendered uninhabitable to find a new life. There were one or two substantial ideas - for example, the kids take their fatal, flawed humanity with them - but the interesting bits foundered in a characterless script and some deeply forgettable music and lyrics.

WIGMORE HALL
Tomorrow, Wednesday at 7.30 pm
PETER FRANKL
piano
SCHUBERT/CHOPIN
PROGRAMME
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RADIO

But a truce to complaining. At least on Christmas Day there was a seasonal After Henry, a cheering revival of Brian Sibley's... And Yet Another Partridge in a Pear Tree, as well as one of Pickwick Papers, which runs daily until Friday in Jane Morgan's classic production.

Boring Day on Radio 3 brought *The Clover Hill*. This was a miniature portrait by John Wells in memory of the late Douglas Cleverdon, publisher and radio producer of the highest distinction. Cleverdon was midwife not only to *Under Milk Wood*, but to David Jones's *In Parenthesis* and to Henry Reed's

Hilda Tablet series - the first of which, *A Very Great Man Indeed*, can be heard tonight as part of a continuing tribute. As a memorial, Wells's little programme was exemplary, packing into its 15 minutes not only a huge amount of information but of flavour too.

It was a pity that a slightly earlier celebration, Peggy Ashcroft's 80th birthday on December 22, was not marked with a special production, but a repeat of Harold Pinter's sinister *Family Voices* (Radio 3) gave a fitting demonstration of how to convey variety of meaning and feeling - from maternal devotion to maternal hatred - with extraordinary economy and control.

David Wade

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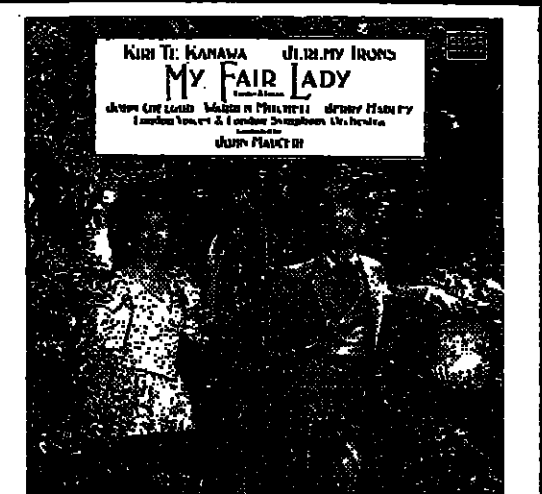
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My Fair Lady



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JAEGER

HARVEY NICHOLS OPEN 10.00 AM TO 8.00 PM, APR 32.1

Bruce Oldfield and **Jean Mair** are the two London designers making part in the Australian Bicentennial fashion show which will be staged at the Sydney Opera House on January 31. They have been invited by the International Wool Secretariat to create a Bicentennial celebratory collection in 1988, along with Gianni Versace and Missonis from Milan; Montana, Rykdel and Kenzo from Paris; Donna Karan and Oscar de la Renta from New York. Oldfield is busy this week finishing off his designs in wool, much of it embroidered. A free weekend in which to relax is what Oldfield has promised to give himself in 1988. "I plan to surprise myself," he says.

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax AM. News headlines, weather, travel and sports bulletins. 6.30 Weather.
- 7.00 Breakfast Time with Jeremy Paxman and Sally Jones. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30, regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15, and weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25. Plus a review of the year's headline makers.
- 8.30 Going for Gold (r). 8.50 Regional news and weather.
- 9.00 News and weather followed by Neighbours (r). 9.25 Children's BBC beginning with a Laurel and Hardy cartoon (r) 9.30 Why Don't You...? Includes clips from the Mervyn Farley and a libretto 9.55 Benetton (r).
- 10.00 News and weather followed by a Boss Cat cartoon (r). 10.30 Play School presented by Sheelagh Gilbey and Mike Amitt.
- 10.55 Five to Eleven. A reading by Joanna Lumley (r). 11.00 News and weather followed by The Littlest Hobo (r). 11.25 Charlie Brown (r). 11.40 Cartoon.
- 12.00 News and weather followed by the first of three programmes. This morning's includes Simply Red, Paul Young, Depeche Mode and Kim Wilde (r). 12.55 Regional news and weather.
- 1.00 One O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. 1.30 Neighbours. A tragic accident happens at the end of Des and Daphne's wedding day.
- 1.50 Film: Captain Nemo and the Underwater City (1969) starring Robert Ryan, Chuck Connors and Marjorie Newman. Adventure yarn, based loosely on works by Jules Verne, about six shipwreck survivors who are rescued by a mysterious submarine that takes them to an underwater city where they are kept prisoner. Directed by James Hill 3.35 Cartoon.
- 3.50 A Paddington Special narrated by Michael Hordern (r).
- 4.30 Simon and the Witch. The 10th and last part 4.35 Film: The Golem (1977). A Children's Film Foundation production about an object from outer space that is found by two boys which possesses strange powers. Directed by Harley Cockfield. 5.35 Rolf Harris Cartoon Time.
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Philip Hayton and Debbie Thewer. Weather 6.35 London Plus.
- 7.00 Telly Addicts. Television critics and columnists challenge each other to a test of programme knowledge. Presented by Noel Edmonds.
- 7.30 EastEnders. Sharon is nervous at the prospect of meeting Duncan's mother, while Angie and Dan are unhappy at their daughter going out with a curly and the "Digger" is taken over by drunken hooligan Henrys (Ceefax).
- 8.00 The Guinness Book of Records. A look at the Guinness Book of Records presented by David Frost and McWhirter. Six new personalities are awarded admission to the Guinness Hall of Fame for 1988.
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk and Debbie Thewer. Regional news and weather.
- 9.30 Cagney and Lacey. The New York police officers investigate a crooked television game show host. Starring Sharon Gless and Tyne Daly. (Ceefax)
- 10.20 Review of the Year 87. Highlights of the year's best TV took place throughout the world.
- 11.35 Film: Splendor in the Grass (1961) starring Natalie Wood and Warren Beatty. Drama, set in a small Kansas town in the 1920s, about a young couple's frustrated love affair and the strain this causes when the respective parents have different ideas for the couple. Directed by Elia Kazan.
- 1.35 Weather.

BBC2

- 9.00 Ceefax.
- 12.05 Film: Peace is Our Profession (1972). A made-for-television Lassie adventure. Directed by Ezra Stone.
- 1.35 World Cup Rugby Special. All Black captain David Kirk joins Nigel Starmer-Smith in a review of this year's World Cup rugby competition.
- 2.35 Sign Extra (r).
- 3.00 News and weather followed by Showtime 87. Another selection of semifinals in the BBCtv and Radio Times Awards for Amateur Film and Video Makers.
- 3.40 News and weather.
- 3.50 Film: Playing Bank to Rio (1993, b/w) starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. A romantic musical tour of South America. Directed by Thornton Freeland. (Ceefax)
- 5.15 100 Greatest Sporting Moments. The 1974 Grand National (r).
- 5.30 Jack High. The first semifinal of the Gateway Masters Bowls Tournament.
- 6.00 Film: The Silent One (1984) starring Pat Evison, Anzac Wallace and Telo Malase. The story of a young Pacific Islander who forms an attachment to a giant white turtle. Directed by Dave Gibson. (Ceefax)
- 7.35 The Fish Course Challenge. The four finalists of a national competition to find the amateur fish cook of the year.
- 8.05 L'heure espagnole. The first of two Ravel operas from Glyndebourne Festival Opera, sung in French with English subtitles. (Simultaneous broadcast with stereo Radio 3)
- 9.00 Songs from My Fair Lady sung by Kiri Te Kanawa, Jeremy Irons and Warren Mitchell.
- 10.00 Film: Shoot the Moon (1982) starring Albert Finney and Diane Keaton. A drama about the divorce of a Californian couple and the effect this has on them and their children. Directed by Phil Parker.
- 12.00 Film: Anna Karenina (1935, b/w) starring Greta Garbo and Fredric March. Drama, based on Tolstoy's novel about a countess in a loveless marriage who has her life changed when she meets the dashing Wronsky. Directed by Clarence Brown. 1.30 Weather.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am includes cartoon and other family entertainment, plus Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond, at 7.00 and 8.00.
- 9.25 Thames news headlines.
- 9.30 A House, A Home, A Life. A story in animation and live action of a thriller-writing mouse and his sleuthing friend who spend Christmas Eve looking for a department store's missing Santa Claus.
- 10.00 The Dodo Christmas Club presented by Bob and Michael Bennett. From Gerald Durrell's Jersey Zoo, advice on looking after pets and news of how the zoo's wild animals are cared for in the winter. 10.25 Thames news headlines 10.30 Santa Barbara.
- 11.00 International University Challenge. The United Kingdom champions, Koble College, Oxford, meet the New Zealand champions, University of Otago 11.45 Thames news headlines.
- 11.30 Christmas on Christmas Island. A documentary on how the island's wild animals are remote Pacific atoll. 12.00 The Sunrises.
- 12.30 News 12.50 Thames news.
- 1.00 Film: Stagecoach (1939) starring Ann-Margret, Alex Cord and Jack Crosby. Western adventure about an ill-assorted group of travellers on an eventful unpeopled stagecoach travelling through Indian country. Directed by Gordon Douglas.
- 3.00 Film: Winkle the Pooh and the Bunsen Burner. A children's animated tale adapted from an A.A. Milne story. Directed by Wolfgang Pethermann. 3.25 Thames news headlines 3.30 So on and so on.
- 4.00 Walt Disney Presents. Two cartoons featuring Donald Duck and Goofy.
- 4.15 Ice Skating '87. Nick Owen introduces highlights from the skating year including action from the World Championships in Dortmund and the European Championships in Sarajevo.
- 5.15 Blockbusters.
- 5.45 News 6.00 Thames news.
- 6.25 Film: Carry On Comedy (1969). The usual Carry On gang try to enjoy themselves on a nudist camp holiday with varying degrees of success. Directed by Gerald Thomas.
- 8.00 Film: Sherlock Holmes - The Sign of Four (1987). (Oracle) (see Choice)
- 10.00 News and weather followed by Thames news headlines.
- 10.15 A Source of Innocent Pleasure. A behind-the-scenes look at the preparations for English National Opera's production of The Mikado, under the watchful eye and wit of Jonathan Miller.
- 11.00 Film: Psycho (1960) starring Anthony Perkins, John Gavin, Janet Leigh. Hitchcock's classic thriller set in a seamy motel where a young woman with an embittered past stops for the night on her way to meet her lover. At the motel she is greeted by the owner, the seemingly normal Norman Bates.
- 1.00 Film: Mr Corbett's Ghost (1986) starring Paul Schofield and John Huston. A made-for-television sinister tale, set in New York's East London in 1917, about a collector of souls. Directed by Danny Huston.
- 2.00 Nashville Swing with Lamey Smithwood and Nancy Ryan.
- 2.30 News headlines followed by Three's Company. Comedy.
- 3.00 Film: My Wicked, Wicked Ways - The Legend of Errol Flynn (1986) starring Errol Flynn, Barbara Hershey. A biopic of the legendary Hollywood hellraiser. Directed by Don Taylor.
- 5.30 CH4 Headline News. Ends at 6.00.

CHANNEL 4

- 9.25 Film: Invitation to a Wedding (1983) starring Ralph Richardson and John Gielgud. A romantic comedy about the misunderstandings that lead to an ear's daughter marrying the wrong man at a wedding rehearsal. Directed by Joseph Brooks.
- 11.05 Christopher's Christmas Mission. An animated film from Sweden about a boy distributing gifts to the poor. Narrated by Bernard Cribbins.
- 11.30 Street Hockey. The Tennent's Super National Championships. 12.00 Film: The Salt Lake City Olympics. Nine of the world's best all-rounders, in three groups of three, compete in Hong Kong. Today's group features Steve Nouri, Greg Matthews and Phil Edwards.
- 1.00 The Westminster Sprint. Rowing Regatta. Olympic squads from the USSR, Italy, France and Great Britain in action on the Serpentine.
- 2.00 Darts. The Threatened Wilderness. Spring in the 365 square miles of National Park (r). (Oracle)
- 3.00 The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby. Part one of the Royal Shakespeare Company's nine hour production of Dickens's novel to be shown in four consecutive days (r).
- 5.05 Switched. Comedy series.
- 6.00 The Man on the Hill. A celebration of the writings of the journalist and novelist Evelyn Waugh who died 100 years ago. (Oracle)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News.
- 7.50 Comment and Weather.
- 8.00 Brookside. Barry borrows Bobby's car and comes back with a broken front light. (Oracle)
- 8.30 Just a Song and Dance Story... (See Choice)
- 9.30 The Paris Years - Igor. An animated puppet film about the composer Igor Stravinsky's years in Paris (r).
- 10.00 Film: Under the Rainbow (1981) starring Chevy Chase and Carrie Fisher. Madcap comedy set in Hollywood in 1958 during the making of The Wizard of Oz. Directed by Steve Rash.
- 11.50 American Football. Ends at 1.10.

Holmes without frills

TELEVISION CHOICE

A hansom cab clatters through the swirling London fog and it can only mean that Sherlock Holmes is back. Granada's slightly belated contribution to the centenary celebration is a typically polished production of a little produced Holmes adventure, The Sign of Four (ITV, 8.00pm). Indeed, to get the best possible visual quality, the film was, unusually for television, shot in 35mm. There has been so much Holmes in the cinema and on TV that there must be a great temptation to find a new approach, or even to send the whole thing up. John Hawkesworth's adaptation, directed by Peter Hammond, eschews frills and plays it straight down the line. This also applies to the principal actors. Jeremy Brett, who plays Holmes, Edward Hardwicke as Watson - who gives notably unimpassioned, almost self-effacing performances. Brett, of course, is no stranger to the role, having made an excellent Holmes in Granada's previous forays into Conan Doyle. Emrys Jones seems, by contrast, almost too hammy. The production starts slowly and for half an hour or so we have little more than exposition of the events that led to the pretty Miss Morstan (played by Jenny Seagrove, who has little more to do than look pretty), the recipient of mysterious gifts of lustrous pearls, to call in the great detective. With so much talk and so little movement, the irreverent thought even crossed my mind that The Sign of Four would have been just as effective on radio. But once the story proper gets into its stride, there is more opportunity for visual impact, not least in the riverboat chase



Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes in a two-hour film version of The Sign of Four, on ITV, at 8.00pm

that finally nails the thieves of the priceless Indian treasure. As a trailer to tomorrow's archive evening devoted to some of the famous programmes of the commercial television company, ATV, Channel 4 presents a profile of the company and its guiding force, Lord Lew Grade. In Just a Song and Dance Story (8.30pm). The coming of independent television in the mid 1950s brought a new philosophy to British broadcasting. The public was to be given what it wanted, not what auntie BBC had hitherto insisted it ought to have. Grade and ATV was the most fervent exponent of this. "I am not here to educate people, I am here to entertain them," said Grade and ATV weighed in with Sunday Night at the London Palladium, Robin Hood and The Saint. Bernard Levin, then a TV critic, dismissed the output of ATV as "an incessant cataract of drive", but as Grade retorted, apropos press criticism of another ATV stalwart, Crossroads: "The public love it, and it's the public that counts". But under Grade, ATV made more documentaries than any other ITV company, as well as prestige drama like Edward VII and Jesus of Nazareth. His guiding force, Lord Lew Grade, in just a Song and Dance Story (8.30pm). The coming of independent television in the mid 1950s brought a new philosophy to British broadcasting. The public was to be given what it wanted, not what auntie BBC had hitherto insisted it ought to have. Grade and ATV was the most fervent exponent of this. "I am not here to educate people, I am here to entertain them," said Grade and ATV weighed in with Sunday Night at the London Palladium, Robin Hood and The Saint. Bernard Levin, then a TV critic, dismissed the output of ATV as "an incessant cataract of drive", but as Grade retorted, apropos press criticism of another ATV stalwart, Crossroads: "The public love it, and it's the public that counts". But under Grade, ATV made more documentaries than any other ITV company, as well as prestige drama like Edward VII and Jesus of Nazareth. His guiding force, Lord Lew Grade, in just a Song and Dance Story (8.30pm). The coming of independent television in the mid 1950s brought a new philosophy to British broadcasting. The public was to be given what it wanted, not what auntie BBC had hitherto insisted it ought to have. Grade and ATV was the most fervent exponent of this. "I am not here to educate people, I am here to entertain them," said Grade and ATV weighed in with Sunday Night at the London Palladium, Robin Hood and The Saint. Bernard Levin, then a TV critic, dismissed the output of ATV as "an incessant cataract of drive", but as Grade retorted,

Peter Waymark

Kaleidoscopic party games

RADIO CHOICE

Kaleidoscope's festive alter ego Pie Leads Cook (Radio 4, 4.30pm) scrambles more than just the regular title of Radio 4's arts magazine. It leaps from one topic to another with the gay abandon of a wound-up polymath who has had one bottle of champagne too many. One moment it's a burlesque (good) about a film cameraman shooting a cross between Casablanca and Paris, Texas; the next, it's a cod interview with a wrong man (not so good). And there are the briefest of snippets of features about multi-screen cinemas, theatre, writers-in-residence, and the tricks that English Opera Company's head of PR gets up to to put more bottoms on to seats at the Coliseum. As a reminder of what Kaleidoscope sounds like when it isn't wearing its party hat and festooning the studio with streamers, tonight's edition (Radio 4, 9.45) is a repeat of Shazam! Not Just Kids' Stuff, the feature about the inroads that



Sir George Solti: a tribute, Radio 3, 9.25pm

cartoon characters and comic books have made into our national culture. O Nation of Shopkeepers (Radio 4, 12.00pm), which salutes those small men who manage to survive in the battle against the supermarkets, today focuses on Ken West who, helped (and sometimes hindered) by his son Stephen, runs a greengrocery business in the Fulham area of London. Ken West is not his real name; the name was over the shop when he bought it, so he adopted it. But everything else

about his business is 100 per cent genuine, including the simple philosophy which seems to guide his modus operandi: "Look after the old 'uns, and the Lord'll look after you." One way and another, Ken West's flourishing shop is a place where there are as many moral precepts to be found as types of fruit and veg. Says one old 'un: "If you can't do nothing from your mouth, don't do nothing from your mouth." Musical highlights on Radio 3: the Glyndebourne production of Ravel's opera L'heure espagnole at 8.00 (also with pictures on BBC2, but the sound will be better on Radio 3), and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's 75th birthday tribute to Sir George Solti (9.25pm). No BBC2 pictures to go with this one, but if you look at the Solti photograph I have used, and then shut your eyes tight, you should have no difficulty in conjuring up some exciting mental pictures of this master musician at the keyboard and on the conductor's rostrum.

Peter Davalle

- BBC1 WALES 6.55pm-7.00pm Roll Herts Cartoon Time 7.00pm-7.10pm News and weather 7.10pm-7.15pm Ceefax 7.15pm-7.20pm News and weather 7.20pm-7.25pm Ceefax 7.25pm-7.30pm News and weather 7.30pm-7.35pm Ceefax 7.35pm-7.40pm News and weather 7.40pm-7.45pm Ceefax 7.45pm-7.50pm News and weather 7.50pm-7.55pm Ceefax 7.55pm-8.00pm News and weather 8.00pm-8.05pm Ceefax 8.05pm-8.10pm News and weather 8.10pm-8.15pm Ceefax 8.15pm-8.20pm News and weather 8.20pm-8.25pm Ceefax 8.25pm-8.30pm News and weather 8.30pm-8.35pm Ceefax 8.35pm-8.40pm News and weather 8.40pm-8.45pm Ceefax 8.45pm-8.50pm News and weather 8.50pm-8.55pm Ceefax 8.55pm-9.00pm News and weather 9.00pm-9.05pm Ceefax 9.05pm-9.10pm News and weather 9.10pm-9.15pm Ceefax 9.15pm-9.20pm News and weather 9.20pm-9.25pm Ceefax 9.25pm-9.30pm News and weather 9.30pm-9.35pm Ceefax 9.35pm-9.40pm News and weather 9.40pm-9.45pm Ceefax 9.45pm-9.50pm News and weather 9.50pm-9.55pm Ceefax 9.55pm-10.00pm News and weather 10.00pm-10.05pm Ceefax 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By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government would be considering whether photographic evidence could be used in those cases.

Continued from page 1

The rebels claimed that the column had passed only a short way beyond Mirajan Bazaar, about 45 miles from

safety and other road signs, fog sensors to improve hazard warnings, 20 new service stations, and an extension of the scheme to penalize construction firms that fall behind schedule.

The dry ski slope at Hillingdon, west London, yesterday, which was busy with people practising, while mountain resorts in Europe reported no snow

Continued from page 1

● The Rev Richard Kirker, general secretary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, Britain's largest gay organization, said he was "appalled" at the bishop's "harsh judgment". The bishop was inviting people to "snoop, pry, threaten and harass" those in stable, responsible loving relationships.

Continued from page 1

He is also against barristers' partnerships, as advocated by Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of Fair Trading, and, unlike his predecessor, wants the Bar to retain wigs. However, he will seek changes in the education and training of barristers.

Away from the law, Mr Johnson is active in charity work. He was a founder of the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust — two of his three children have the disease — and is secretary of the International Cystic Fibrosis Association.

Mr Michael Benson with the British snow machine wanted by the sunny ski resorts

Snowstorm in Chicago; a workman clears up on Michigan Avenue

The machines pump out a mixture

Even Finland and Norway have requested ersatz snow when the temperature falls below zero but no moisture falls to create the genuine article. Mr Benson said snow from a machine is never quite as good a quality as the snow that can be provided by nature but a ski resort without snow was about as much use as a pub without beer.

Two holiday companies, Thomas Cook and Horizon, said that any holidaymaker cancelling a trip before departure because of poor snow prospects would not be entitled to a refund. Both firms, however, said that every effort would be made to transport skiers to the snow.

In the United States yesterday, workmen had to clear pavements and roads in Chicago after a storm dumped an inch of snow.

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Cold-blooded poisoner, so calculating (5).	1 A direction to the crowd gets us wondering (9).
4 Lancelotian's obsession about assassinating a French noun (9)	2 Found in the Tube, a gold coin (5)
9 Chap cut out first and foremost to be a tax-collector (9).	3 Reconciling object to about 60% of 21 st dn (9).
10 One not drinking during a party for the above (5).	4 Where Ptah was worshipped in Tennessee? (7).
11 Two little children — that's all (5).	5 Puzzle has no indefinite number above zero (7).
12 Honoured at first in Paris, she carried this advice (9).	6 Disproportionate international levy (5).
13 Intellectual advance from economists (7).	7 Make known in court and dine, perhaps (9).
15 Membership fee payable — daughter is out of spirits (7).	8 Restrain upset Head of English, (5)
18 Tanker ordered to hold one nitrogenuous compound (7).	14 Of mortal race — possibly a new brother (5-4).
20 Lecturers correcting proofs (7).	16 Deadly blow from a karate expert (5-4).
21 Clergy man insolvent, it appears, despite having done so? (9).	17 How my darling plied the smoothing-iron? (9).
23 Curved knife for food preparation, do we hear? (5).	19 A memo we may write shortly (7).
25 Mild sarcasm from leader of youth carcs? On the contrary (5).	20 Deliver a German king to the dancing-party (7).
26 Changing change judge for student — an unlikely type (9).	21 Initially it lodged in Achilles, causing a hurt (5).
27 Place for wedding feast; rented to a painter (9).	22 Like certain standard size of paper? (5).
28 Old maid in watered silk (5).	24 Some like baby food (5).

CUT AND SHUT
a. To use a knuckleduster
b. A style of haircut

MAUD & RUTH
a. Mince and mushy peas
b. The truth
c. Gay friends

Solutions page 14, column 8

WEATHER The mild weather will continue to affect most areas today. Parts of the north will be cool, dry and bright. On exposed western coasts and the northern isles there will be showers. A band of rain, from about Yorkshire to Cornwall, will move south-east. Cloud and rain will spread from the south-west to reach Wales, Northern Ireland and England. Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: unsettled and cooler.

MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog;
rain; s, sun; sn, snow; t, thunder.

[illegible]

Sun	Rain	Max
hrs	in	C F

Savannah		.06	13	55	cloud
Bridgton			13	55	cloud
Walden			13	55	cloud
Lowell	0.1		13	55	cloud
Clinton			13	55	cloud
Southard			13	55	cloud
Falmouth			11	52	cloud
Houlton			20	60	cloud
Eastbourne	0.3		12	54	cloud
Calais			12	54	cloud
Lifemore			12	54	cloudy
Bogor R			11	52	cloud
South			14	54	cloud
Sandown	0.1		12	54	cloud
Southwest			12	54	cloud
Weymouth			12	54	cloud
Enoch			13	55	cloud
Townsend	0.7		10	50	cloud
Falmouth	0.1	.03	13	55	cloudy
Scilly Isles			13	55	cloud
Weymouth			13	55	cloud
Minehead	0.3		14	57	cloudy
Weymouth		.16	14	57	cloudy
Douglas			11	52	rain
Canile		.22	13	55	rain
Canile		.22	13	55	rain
Tenby		.01	13	55	cloud
Aberystwyth		.02	13	54	cloud
Avonmouth		.02	12	54	rain
Exeter		.65	10	50	rain
Cardiff		.65	10	50	rain
Larnick		.20	9	48	rain
Preswick		.48	12	54	rain
Preswick		.48	12	54	rain
Wick		.31	11	52	rain

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.64	2.50
Austria Sch	21.70	20.85
Belgium F	64.50	61.70
Canada Cdn	2.485	2.345
Denmark Kr	11.35	11.35
Finland Mk	7.70	7.30
France Fr	3.43	3.53
Germany DM	1.810	1.810
Greece Dr	270.00	250.00
Italy Lit	2.20	2.24
Netherlands G	1.165	1.165
Spain Ptas	2885.00	2155.00
Switzerland S	2.00	2.00
Sweden Kr	3.48	3.31
Portugal Esc	22.15	11.68
South Africa Rd	1.60	1.60
Spain Ptas	2.00	198.25
Sweden Kr	11.54	10.89
Switzerland S	2.01	2.01
USA \$	1.00	1.00
Taiwanpes New	200.00	220.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Instant Price Index 103.4 (November).
London: The FT index closed up 10.5 at 7474.4.

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 27.35 at 2005.64.

TODAY	AM	NT	PM
London Bridge	8.19	9.5	9.12
Aberdeen	1.53	3.5	8.50
Arbroath	1.29	11.0	26.00
Barnsley	6.08	8.0	11.00
Cardiff	1.18	10.0	1.59
Derbyport	12.17	4.7	12.39
Dundee	7.37	9.5	12.00
Falmouth			
Glasgow	7.21	4.2	7.05
Glasgow	7.21	4.2	7.05
Grimsby	10.55	7.4	11.00
Harford	5.27	4.8	5.44
Hull	12.25	6.7	1.40
Leamington	10.55	7.4	11.00
Luton	9.05	4.8	10.04
Liverpool	6.46	7.7	6.27
Llewellyn	3.35	2.4	5.15
Manchester	12.17	4.7	12.39
Milford Haven	12.48	5.7	1.20
Newquay			
Nottingham	12.18	3.0	12.30
Peterhead	11.58	4.8	1.12
Portsmouth	11.10	1.8	1.31
Southampton	6.57	4.8	1.31
Southampton	5.50	4.4	8.31
Southampton	5.50	4.4	8.31
Southampton	5.50	4.4	8.31
Teesside	11.11	4.4	11.15
Wilton-on-Avon	6.05	3.7	7.03

Time measured in minutes. Tel-4-23000.

London 4.29 pm to 7.36 am
Bristol 4.39 pm to 7.46 am
Edinburgh 4.15 pm to 8.14 am
Manchester 4.26 pm to 7.55 am
Penzance 4.57 pm to 7.51 am

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 102.4 (54F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 12C (54F) Humidity: 77 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 8 pm, trace. S: 24 hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 in.

	C	F		C
Jefferson	r 12	54	Germansy	s 12
Franklin	c 13	55	Inverness	c 10
Blackpool	r 11	52	Jacay	s 10
Wristot	c 13	55	London	c 13
Cardiff	c 13	55	Wichiter	r 12
Stirlingburg	r 12	54	Newcastle	c 11
Stingow	r 12	54	Reddney	c 11

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: Minehead, Somerset, 14C (57F); lowest day max: Cape W. Highland, and Fraserburgh, Grampian, (46F); highest rainfall: Eskdalemuir, Dumfriesshire, 1.08 in; highest sunshine: S. down, Isle of Wight, 3.4 hr.

Moon sets
2.18 am

Moon rises
12.10 pm

Full Moon January 4

[illegible]

THE TIMES

PART 2

TUESDAY DECEMBER 29 1987

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

(Change on week)

FT 30 Share

1432.3 (+54.5)

FT-SE 100

1791.1 (+74.1)

Bargains

8251 (28077)

USM (Datastream)

139.27 (+5.78)

THE POUND

(Change on week)

US dollar

1.8330 (+0.0070)

W German mark

2.9878 (+0.0041)

Trade-weighted

75.6 (+0.1)

US NOTEBOOK

Fed holds

firm in

fight over

priorities

From Maxwell Newton

New York

The reaffirmation by the

Group of Seven of their desire

for stable exchange rates has

been greeted with grins in the

currency markets.

This may overlook the further

indication the statement

provided on the degree to

which Mr James Baker, the

US Treasury Secretary, is

being backed into a corner.

Those attempting to close

off dollar devaluation as a

policy priority include the

creditor nations' central banks

and finance ministries, of

course. But another powerful

advocate of dollar exchange

rate stability has been the

Federal Reserve.

Faced with the problem of

attempting to contain inflation

pressures from currency

devaluation and the

federal budget deficit, the

central bank has taken the one

course it may with reasonable

independence follow - it has

frozen the growth of the

nation's money in "real"

terms.

Neurotic

Mr Baker, as indicated by

his advocacy of dollar deval-

uation as almost the only

economic policy needed, is

super-sensitive to the threat

of a recession. Thus a tussle

is developing over economic

policy priorities for 1988.

The Administration, whose

views are most publicly ex-

pressed by Mr Beryl Sprinkel,

chairman of the Council of

Economic Advisers, is nervous

critics might say neurotic -

over the prospect of a

policy-induced recession.

He advocates monetarist eco-

nomist theories and the tide

of monetarist criticism of the

Fed's policy is rising sharply.

Mr Sprinkel has raised the

ante on the Fed by publicly

stating the Administration's

forecast of economic growth

in 1988 has now been cut from

the extreme 3.5 per cent

expected for 1987.

What has particularly dis-

mayed Sprinkel and Co has

been the Fed's decision to

pull back virtually all addi-

tions to the money stock

coinciding with the October

19 crash.

Within the context of this

supercharged policy debate,

the G7 declaration was bound

to reinforce the Fed's demand

for monetarist restraint and a

harder dollar.

The equivocal nature of the

evidence complicates the task

for advocates of either side.

Severity

The Fed can point to the

dollar's decline and the huge

surplus that has persisted

despite the big devaluation

against creditor currencies.

The reports in the Fed's tan

book, prepared for each meet-

ing of the central bank's

policy-making body, the Fed-

eral Open Market Committee,

has been very upbeat about

the economy. Despite the

recent downward trend on

retail sales and real monthly

personal consumption, car

sales in December have been

stronger than expected and

employment growth in Octo-

ber and November was spec-

tacularly strong.

The Administration and the

monetarists point to high

retail sales, falling real per-

sonal consumption, declining

housing starts and almost

imperceptible growth in real

government spending.

Mostly they point to the

severity of the Fed's money

growth freeze this year. Thus

the question of the political

unreliability of the Fed will

be crucial in coming months.

Those who believe the cen-

tral bank will buckle are

legion. The small minority

who believe otherwise may

prove closer to the mark.

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Money Markets 18 | City Diary 19

Foreign Exch 18 | Econ View 19

Int'l Trade 18 | Gilt-Edged 19

MPs to study energy sell-off

Financial targets likely to come under attack

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The House of Commons Energy Select Committee is to begin its 1988 programme with a detailed investigation into how the electricity industry can be privatized.

Some members of the Committee are known to be opposed to the Government setting new financial targets for the industry in the run-up to privatization. They are likely to question the amounts being raised, and the likely effect of increased power prices on domestic and industrial consumers.

The Electricity Consumers Council is likely to oppose such price rises, and large industrial users are known to be preparing submissions suggesting that the privatization programme is already leading to increased charges.

The Committee, which will continue under the chairmanship of Sir Ian Lloyd, the Conservative MP for Havant, is to conduct an inquiry into

"the structure, regulation and economic consequences of electricity supply in the private sector."

Its terms of reference will also include examining how the other energy industries will be affected by the privatization of electricity.

The Committee is now asking for written evidence to be submitted by interested parties and will start hearing evidence in February.

Among those expected to present their case will be the chairman of the electricity area boards, who have suggested that the boards should be privatized individually, with each of them being given the opportunity to generate their own power to feed into their low-voltage networks, and to buy power from any private power stations in other areas.

However, one of the main issues likely to be aired is that

of control of the national grid. The industry is deeply split on this issue, with the Central Electricity Generating Board saying that it needs to retain control of the grid to ensure supplies, and the area boards saying that control of the grid should be given to a new company owned by them.

The final Committee report is likely to be published in the autumn, at the same time as the Government announces its detailed plans for the privatization of the industry.

Suggestions will also be put forward that the national grid should be moved into a non-profit-making holding company jointly owned by the generating and distribution companies, but operated and controlled by the CEGB.

It is understood that the Government has already decided that the national grid should be removed from the control of the CEGB.

Austin Rover car output 'at highest since 1979'

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

Austin Rover has fared better than expected this year, building 468,200 cars and vans - 14.6 per cent more than the 408,677 produced in 1986. Final figures are likely to show that car production in 1987 was the highest since 1979, although light van output has almost halved to 17,000.

During the summer, Mr Les Wharton, Austin Rover managing director, forecast only a small output improvement compared with 1986 as every effort was channelled into selling vehicles profitably rather than chasing market share.

The record 2 million new cars market in Britain this year has clearly aided Austin Rover's recovery. It will record an all-time low market share of about 15 per cent in 1987 - 15.6 per cent in 1986 - yet sell more cars in Britain.

This has gone some way to making up for the lower-than-expected export growth. Forecasts made earlier this year optimistically predicted a 28 per cent jump in exports, from 117,000 to 150,000, as the Rover 800 made its debut in the American market. The US sales company - 49 per cent

owned by Austin Rover - claimed it would sell 27,000 Rovers in the first year.

Sales are unlikely to reach 20,000, though this is a creditable first-year performance for a single new model. Overall, Austin Rover exports this year will have risen by about 17 per cent to 137,000.

Land-Rover will meet its modest target, selling 3,000 Range Rovers in America in the first 12 months of marketing in the US and the Range Rover has now become the company's chief profit-earner.

Jaguar to employ 100 more

Jaguar is to recruit up to 100 new workers in the new year for its Castle Bromwich body plant in the West Midlands, taking the luxury car maker's workforce to more than 12,800.

The extra jobs will allow the plant to work a production bottleneck.

They could be the last new jobs at Jaguar, as future growth in production will

come from higher productivity and more automation.

Jaguar aims to build 56,000 cars in 1988 compared with 48,020 this year. Production has risen by 16 per cent from 41,437 in 1986, but it fell short of Jaguar's target of 49,000 cars.

This, the company says, was because of problems with new automated equipment, and the need to steadily improve productivity alongside the

rapid growth in production.

Despite being poised for record sales of almost 3,000 cars in America in December, Jaguar's 1987 sales in the United States will be about 1,000 less than the target of 24,000, and below last year's total of 24,500 cars.

In Britain Jaguar has sold more than 11,000 cars in 1987, the best for almost 10 years and substantially up on the 7,500 registered in 1986.

Bremner meeting ordered

By Kerry Gill

A judge in the Scottish Court of Session has ordered the board of Bremner, the property and stores group, to bring a shareholders' meeting forward, to January 18.

Lord Davidson upheld a claim by Mr Dennis McGuinness - chairman of Carswell, the Glasgow stockbroker, and a managing director of Bremner - that the board had acted in a manner which was "unfairly prejudicial" to shareholders. Mr

McGuinness had requisitioned a shareholders' meeting to attempt to oust Mr James Rowland-Jones, the chairman of Bremner, and two other directors, Mr David Rees and Mr David Porter.

However, a board committee, which included Mr Rowland-Jones and Mr Rees, tried to postpone the meeting until next June.

Company law requires directors to hold a meeting of shareholders "forthwith" on receipt of a requisition, but

directors are allowed to decide on the date. Discretionary powers, however, were introduced in 1980 which meant that the courts could prevent shareholders if they felt the shareholders were being prejudiced unfairly.

Mr McGuinness said later: "It is ridiculous that the law should require directors to send out notices of a requisitioned meeting within three weeks, but leaves them free to postpone the meeting for more than seven months."

USM REVIEW

Bloodied but unbowed by crash

By Michael Clark

The Unlisted Securities Market was left bloodied but unbowed by the great stock market crash of 1987.

The collapse was the biggest ever recorded on world financial markets and taught Britain's growing army of private investors that shares can go down as well as up. It also provided a dramatic, and unexpected, climax to the year.

Events in the wake of Black Monday appeared confused but fears of the damage being done were soon realized and it later emerged that the USM had taken a beating, with share prices having fallen further than those on the main market. In the first week alone, it was calculated that about £1.85 billion had been wiped off USM share values.

Traditionally there is a lag between sharp movements in the main market and the USM. During the first few days after the crash, the junior market was down 19.9 per cent compared with a fall on the "Big Board" of 21.9 per cent. The biggest losses were seen among the high-flyers which had scored sizeable gains earlier in the year and whose shares contained a lot of speculative froth.

By the time the market had started to bottom out at the end of November and early December, the USM was down about 40 per cent, compared with a 30 per cent fall in the FT-SE 100 index.

Most dealers are still prepared to argue that a false market was created by the crash. Lack of marketability has always been the biggest complaint of fund managers when discussing the USM. The

thin conditions make it difficult to deal in any size in bull markets on the way up and virtually impossible in bear markets on the way down.

This was certainly the case in October with institutions unable to deal and forced to look on helplessly as their shares continued falling.

But this is all in sharp contrast to the mood of the market at the start of the year when the equity market was still riding the crest of a wave and companies were making the most of the strongest bull market in living memory.

Dealers were still feeling their way after "Big Bang" and the introduction of

USM prices 18

Seag - the Stock Exchange's computerized trading system. Then the list of new issues seemed never ending.

Mr Stephen Handy, of Kleinwort Greaveson, the broker, says: "1987 was a fantastic year for the USM. Companies were able to do rights issues when they wanted and were able to make acquisitions when they wanted."

Mr Handy considers that most investors would have still ended with a net profit at the end of the year despite the crash. Brokers also did well, helped by the market's strong performance during the first six months and the sharp increase in turnover after the introduction of computerized trading.

It was also a year of mixed fortunes for the new style of jobbers, now known as market-makers. Mr Luke Johnson, the USM analyst with Kleinwort Greaveson,

has some sympathy for the much maligned market-maker. In the Christmas edition of Kleinwort's *USM/Smaller Companies Review* he says: "During highly volatile stock market activity, the job of a market-maker is an unpredictable fashion, and rises and falls are exaggerated."

A number of USM companies were still able to outperform the rest of the market although most of their impressive gains were trimmed by the crash. The final positions have still to be worked out but clinging on to the number one spot at the beginning of December was Acis Jewellery where Mr Daryl Phillips, the South African businessman, took control in June after paying 20p a share for a 46 per cent stake. Starting the year at 9p, the shares peaked at 33p before closing on Christmas Eve at 80p - a rise of almost 900 per cent.

The race for second place has seen more jockeying for position. Until Black Monday, shares of Entertainment Production Services were a strong contender, having risen from 4p at the start of the year to 48p. But in the wake of the market collapse the shares fell to 20p. They are currently trading around the 23p level. As a result, it was overtaken by Pacific Sales Organisation, the trading group, where a consortium of investors, including Mr Tony Berry of Blue Arrow and Mr David Ellingham and Mr Peter James of WSL, took control earlier in the year. Its shares rose from 45p in January to an all-time high of 360p a little later. They are now 245p.



Going down: money dealers take telephone orders from customers as the dollar plunges to new lows in Tokyo yesterday

'Japanese cars threat from US'

By Our Motor Industry Correspondent

A senior executive of Renault, the French motor manufacturer, has given a warning that massive imports of Japanese cars built in America is one of the biggest threats facing the European car industry.

M Patrick Fauré, the director-general of Renault, said that the combination of Japanese levels of productivity in the burgeoning "transplant" factories in the US, the value of the dollar and the political power of America, meant that the imports would be both competitive and unstoppable.

Professor Garel Rhys, the professor of motor industry economics at Cardiff University and a permanent adviser to the Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry, has already given a warning that the imports of up to 500,000 or more of US-Japanese cars would aggravate overcapacity in Europe. He stressed: "This is a problem that the European motor industry is reluctant to even consider, as it presents a nightmare with no immediate solution."

The weakness of the dollar should have allowed the Big Three US manufacturers to export to Europe but M Fauré says it will take them time to develop suitable models for Europe. "The Japanese are faster and have cars adapted for Europe so they can be a quicker threat," he added.

The pressure for US exports to Europe will come from a surplus of US production capacity and the duplication of Honda's recent decision to build one new model only in America and export it to both Japan and Europe.

Car sales in Britain will exceed 2 million in 1987 compared with the previous record 1.88 million last year, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said. It added that about half these sales would be of cars made in Britain, up from 46 per cent in 1986.

By the end of November, 51.73 per cent of cars sold in Britain were imports but this proportion would fall in December. In the first 11 months of 1986, 56.17 per cent were imports.

Dollar drops to lows as Europe follows Far East

By Colin Narbrough

As London was taking a holiday, Europe yesterday followed Japan's lead to push the dollar to historic lows, provoking concerted dollar support action by central banks and dragging stocks down with it.

The dollar ended in Tokyo at ¥123.55 and DM1.59

Drive for quality speeds Rank Xerox to recovery

By Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

The coming year will be a milestone for Rank Xerox, the British-based affiliate of the giant Xerox Corporation of the United States.

The company has conducted a sustained onslaught on costs, manning levels, outdated working practices and quality over the best part of a decade. And in February, Mr Roland Magnin, the Rank Xerox managing director, will announce pre-tax profits for 1987 that are expected to be about 50 per cent up on the previous year's £214 million. He will be able to report that the company's quality drive and concerted action by European copier and typewriter manufacturers to halt dumping of Japanese machines, is consistently paying off.

The result will mark the fourth successive year of profit growth, assisted by the strong yen. Last year, the associated company, Fuji Xerox of Japan, contributed £58 million to profits.

Rank Xerox has won government accolades for the use of new manufacturing technologies and its two British plants and one in The Netherlands have won national quality awards.

A few days ago the Rank Xerox Life operation was awarded the French national quality prize and the plant in Mitcheldean, Gloucestershire, won the Xerox Corporation's own international quality award.

The company's manufacturing and quality recovery has been masterminded by Mr Dick Holmes, director of European manufacturing. He has implemented the Xerox "leadership through quality"



Keeping a close eye on standards: Dick Holmes, mastermind of Rank Xerox's campaign

programme in Europe, a scheme aimed at giving employees training and motivation in the philosophy and practice of business quality, and providing plants with benchmarks of performance. In 1980, Rank Xerox was plagued with a high level of defects in machines coming off the assembly line for testing. Since then, there have been dramatic improvements and Mr Holmes is near to the much sought-after zero defects position.

In seven years, manufacturing costs have been cut by more than 60 per cent, stocks from 99 to 28 days of supply and annual output increased by more than 300 per cent. The cost in jobs has been high — from 10,000 in the European plants in 1978 to 4,000 today.

Mr Holmes, a former vice-president of Ford of Europe, says: "The leadership through quality campaign has been a greater success than ever I would have believed."

"It has elements of Christianity, courtesy, common

sense — and all these good qualities make it assured of being successful. We still have a long way to go in meeting the competition, but we are a lot closer."

Meanwhile, the European copier market is becoming increasingly competitive and there is considerable overcapacity. The 1987 copier market is estimated at 820,000 units, but is forecast to drop to about 800,000 in 1988.

The level of local content in Rank Xerox remains low in comparison with that demanded by the European Commission of the motor industry. In 1988, more than 34 per cent of Rank Xerox costs will be absorbed by non-European-sourced material.

Mr Holmes rejects suggestions that the company carries out minimal research and development in Europe. "Britain does jolly well out of Xerox: two substantial factories and the only Xerox design centre in Europe."

He stresses that in 1986 Rank Xerox made grants of £4 million to eight European

universities to stimulate office systems research.

The cloud that remains over Rank Xerox and the other European copier and electronic typewriter producers is the so-called "screwdriver factories" set up by the Japanese in response to the European Commission's anti-dumping duties.

CECOM, the grouping of European manufacturers including Rank Xerox, Olivetti of Italy, Tetras of France and Océ of The Netherlands, has told the Commission that seven Japanese producers have set up or are about to establish copier assembly operations in the EEC.

In the years from 1986-88, the annual output of copiers by the seven producers in the EEC is forecast to grow from 161,000 to 563,000. At that level of growth, says Rank Xerox, the plants can be nothing but assembly-only plants. As a result, it adds, by next year at least three quarters of all Japanese copiers sold in the EEC will be assembled in the Community.

EEC's power in BA buy queried

By Colin Narborough

The Government has been formally asked by a Conservative backbencher to clarify whether the European Commission has the power to block British Airways' £250 million takeover of British Caledonian.

Mr Teddy Taylor, the Conservative MP for South-east East and a strong opponent of the EEC, wrote during the Christmas weekend to Lord Young of Graham, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Mr Taylor was seeking assurances that Brussels had no legal right to prevent or intervene in the British Airways tie-up with British Caledonian.

"It seems to me to be illegal for them to interfere in what is a British matter," he told Lord Young.

After BA last week emerged the victor in the bid battle for B-Cal, the European Commission said that in response to complaints from other airlines it was considering opening a formal inquiry into the merger of BA and Britain's "second force" carrier, B-Cal.

Lord King, the chairman of BA, has agreed to discuss the Commission's concerns in Brussels early in the new year, but has made publicly clear that he expects no problems.

A number of small airlines, led by British Midland, formally asked the EEC to look into the merger, as they believe it to be anti-competitive.



Lord Young: confident

itive and in breach of Treaty of Rome provisions that prohibit the abuse of market dominance within the 12-nation Community.

A spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday that Lord Young had not yet replied to Mr Taylor, but noted that the Government naturally recognized the Commission's obligation to look into possible breaches of the EEC's founding treaty.

It also recognized the Commission's right to take such matters to the European Court, if it felt this was warranted.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Trade and Industry Minister, was, however, dismissive last week of Brussels being able to exercise anything more than theoretical muscle over the merger.

His view reflected government thinking that no further obstacles should be put in BA's way, and especially not by Brussels.

The DTI noted that the Commission's scope for challenging BA rested on Article 86 of the Treaty of Rome, not on proposed EEC rules on merger control.

ECONOMIC VIEW

Taking the buzz-word approach to 1987

How will historians remember 1987? Will Black Monday just be the first indication that financial markets are now likely to behave in a more volatile way, both up and down, or will it be the harbinger of economic doom? Will anyone recall, in years to come, that international co-operation on economic policy was high on the agenda?

For the historians, and for the rest of us, a useful way of looking at the year is through the way it was described at the time. This, the buzz-word approach, probably tells us more about what was going on than any dreary run through the figures.

When 1987 began, there was still concern about the City's short-termism. Industry said that the City was only interested in a fast buck, rather than fulfilling its genuine financing needs.

The Confederation of British Industry set up a special task force. It concluded that the City was not, after all, excessively short-termist in its approach. And then, hardly was the ink dry on its report, than the markets crashed.

There was also much early in the year about the J curve. This is the mechanism whereby a currency devaluation leads to an initial worsening in a country's balance of payments position (imports become immediately more expensive, the increased competitiveness of exports takes time to work through), followed by a later improvement.

The J curve was supposed to lead to an improvement in the US current account deficit by the end of the year. It did not, unless the record \$17.6 billion October deficit was a mirage. We shall hear a lot more about the J curve.

In February, the Louvre became more than an art gallery and the home of the French Treasury. It gave its name to the agreement intended to stabilize the dollar and enhance economic co-operation between the Group of Seven major countries (technically this one was a Group of Six meeting because Italy went home in a huff). The G7 was another buzzword in 1987, and has probably seen off the G5.

Recently, politicians and officials have been berating the Press and the markets for emphasizing the exchange rate element of the Louvre agreement, and ignoring the other elements of policy co-ordination contained in the Paris statement.

However, the politicians themselves, and not least Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer, tended to lay greatest emphasis on the Louvre as a currency deal.

After the Louvre accord we saw a substantial amount of co-ordinated intervention in support of the dollar by the major central banks. There was some dispute over whether it was permissible for this intervention to be sterilized — in other words, its effects on domestic money supply growth neutralized. In general it was not and even the West German Bundesbank had to suffer a second successive year of above-target money-supply growth.

The Louvre bought time for the dollar but, by Easter, the London markets had begun to focus on another event, the prospect of a June general election. Apart from the almost daily panic about opinion polls which, with hindsight, looks to have been remarkably inappropriate — the great obsession towards the end of the period was with the famous wall of money which was supposed to arrive from Japan on Mrs Thatcher's election victory.

In the gilt market, traders worked

through the night to handle the wall of money. Unfortunately, it did not arrive. The wall of money assumption appears to have been based on the view that Japanese fund managers do not read English newspapers, or pay attention to opinion polls when they are showing near-certain election results.

Clearly they did, and while there have been inflows into the London market from Japan since the election, in no way could it be characterized as a wall of money.

Almost as soon as Mrs Thatcher was back in Downing Street, the markets began to worry about the economy. There was scant comfort in the fact that they would have worried a lot more had Labour won.

The talk was of overheating and this one has run for most of the second half of the year, save for a short period around the time of the October stock market crash (of which more in a moment).

Overheating, shorthand for the situation in which demand in the economy is growing at much too fast a pace, with a consequent outbreak of inflationary pressures and a shift into larger deficit on the current account, was the subject of much debate in June and July.

The Government had pumped up the economy by public spending, tax cuts and a lower value for sterling. The view was that the difficulty was going to come in letting it down again gradually.

The official view appeared to be that the overheating worries were grossly overstated, and that the economy could respond to the newly found vigour of demand.

Unfortunately, the Chancellor played into the hands of the overheating school, and caused shock waves from Throgmorton Street to Torremolinos in the process, by raising base rates from 9 to 10 per cent early in August.

Then, of course, came the second half of October, and a whole string of epithets for the stock market fall. The Crash of 1987 was there from the beginning, and has lasted quite well, although a disturbing tendency has emerged of describing Black Monday and the days that surrounded it as a crash. If that was a crash, a crash must be something rather special.

Some people preferred to describe the stock market's plunge as a correction, which they said was long overdue. Mr John Phelan, the chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, moved us into a new generation of financial terminology when he described Black Monday as a meltdown. Storms, hurricanes, slides, wipeouts, freefalls, you can take your choice. But let us hope that crashette does not survive for too long.

Since October, the emphasis has been on crisis management by governments, and liquidity provision by central banks. Intervention has had to be unsterilized and the Chancellor has changed the rules on funding to allow this.

In 1988, we can expect to hear a lot more of the G7, the J curve, co-ordinated intervention and, probably, of overheating. The bigger governments will still have to operate economic policy on a crisis management basis, complicated by the fact that the United States will be operating policy partly to secure a Republican victory in the presidential election.

One thing we must hope is that, in either sense of the word, there are no more meltdowns during 1988.

David Smith

Economics Correspondent

Equities' loss a long-term gain

The effect of October's crash in equities will make investors reassess their attitude to the gilt-edged market and bond markets generally. Investors will try to increase the proportion of gilt-edged and other fixed-interest stocks in their portfolios during 1988. This in turn should lead not only to a firm gilt market, but also to a revival of long-term debt issues by British companies.

Before the crash, British institutions found it difficult to justify investment in gilts compared with equities, especially with yields in the 9 per cent to 10 per cent region on gilts. Equities in recent years had put in such a consistently good performance in real terms that very substantial falls in long gilt yields would have been required to produce a return as good as that expected on equities.

The big fall in equities in October, however, has not only reduced investors' expectations of the return on them, it has also emphasized just how risky investment can be — a fact that tended to be forgotten when the equity market seemed to rise inexorably.

Support for this view of British institutions' behaviour can be derived from statistics concerning their net purchases of gilt-edged securities. These show that, in the year to September 1987, the British

non-bank private sector made no net investment in gilts.

This means that non-bank investors — mainly, in this context, the financial institutions such as insurance companies and pension funds — were shunning gilts. Instead, they were putting their new money elsewhere, chiefly into the booming equity market.

Post-crash, the financial institutions will be in a dilemma as to what to do now. Some may argue that to satisfy the expectations that have been raised among investors by the high historical rates of return on savings products — not to mention projections of future returns using 13 per cent per annum rates of return — investment in equities will continue to be indicated.

These investors will be hoping that the equity boom will return and that the fall in October will be a kind of collective neurosis from which the system will soon recover.

Other are more likely to recognize that, from the viewpoint of prudent investment, and indeed from investment theory, some form of diversification into bonds would be a useful insurance policy.

Not only has the riskiness of equity returns been graphically demonstrated, but also the expectations of future returns may have been reduced.

So, even though opinions

may vary between institutions, overall it seems likely that investment in gilts will rise in 1988. Indeed, any attempt by institutions to raise the proportion of gilts in their portfolios will run up against the problem that the Government will not be looking to be a net issuer of many gilts, given the likely level of the public sector borrowing requirement over the next year.

If pension funds tried to raise by 1 per cent the proportion of their total investments represented by gilts, for example, they would need to buy an extra £1.75 billion.

As the extra demand for fixed-interest securities that is likely to arise next year is unlikely to be wholly satisfied by the issue of the gilts, it seems probable that there will be a revival of the practice of issuing longer term fixed interest debt by British companies.

This could come about both by a revival of the domestic fixed interest and debenture market, and also by further "Eurosterling" issues.

If equities are now viewed more cautiously by some investors, then companies will find it harder to raise money via share issues, but correspondingly easier to raise money by incurring debt.

In addition to domestic demand for gilts, overseas demand for gilts is likely to

remain high, as it has been in 1987. In the first three quarters of 1987, overseas investors bought nearly a net £5 billion worth of gilts.

Indeed, overseas interest in gilts has been much more consistent in 1987 than that of domestic institutions. This is certainly an encouraging trend as it is leading to a much more diverse client base for the gilt market: overseas investors must now account for about 15 per cent of gilt holdings.

Overseas interest is likely to continue in 1988. Not only is sterling a relatively strong currency, but also real yields on British long bonds are very high on an international basis.

This is particularly so in view of the low level of the budget deficit in the United Kingdom, compared to the United States, for example.

Given the relatively restricted supply of gilts and other fixed-interest securities in Britain, even allowing for some increase in private issues, a modest increase in demand will probably have a disproportionate effect.

It seems likely that both British and overseas investors will want to increase their holdings of sterling bonds in 1988. A bull market for gilts is the likely outcome.

Richard Golding

Head of market research, Kleinwort Grieson, Charlesworth Ltd

Thanks, but no thanks

Cases of champagne, food hampers, colour televisions and gold pens were winging their way about the City last week as a gesture of seasonal goodwill. Some firms aimed at spending as much as £50,000 a year on presents. But many could now be returned to sender by executives who fear that in the post-Guinness City gift guide could be seen as a bribe. Just over one in three top managers who took part in a survey by the magazine *Chief Executive* said that in the past they have returned Christmas presents. But only six of the 140 or so managers polled said they did not accept any Christmas presents. And only 4 per cent of firms banned all gifts. The problem is where to draw the line. As one managing director said: "One bottle of wine, OK. Two bottles of wine, OK. One case of wine? Two cases? What were the most expensive unsolicited gifts received and returned in the past? A £200 hamper, colour television, leather briefcases and £100 cigarette boxes."

Rue de pay

Employees at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the securities arm of Barclays Bank, received notification of their 1988 salaries last week, with the firm proudly proclaiming that no one's salary had been cut, despite its £60 million loss in the stock market last year. Still, disappointed that there had been no increase, staff are, I hear, further concerned that the 1988 bonus level — which

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Market loses its bottle

The crash of 1987 has taken its toll on champagne sales within the Square Mile. The champagne index, monitored against rises and falls in the FT-SE 100 index by David Gilmore, owner of the popular Pavilion restaurant and bar in Finsbury Circus, shows that some 11,000 bottles of the bubbly stuff have been consumed on his premises during 1987 — which, at around £20 a bottle, works out at a spend of no less than £220,000. That is

an increase of 20 per cent on 1986, but Gilmore says that that increase was notched up before the financial hurricane which hit the City in October. "The Christmas spirit just wasn't the same this year," he tells me. "People have still been cutting out at lunch-time, but there's not staying behind for a quick bottle of champagne after work any more — it must be because they're watching the pennies."

job-cutting early next year as an alternative method of cost reduction. But BZW insists not to be the board game Chainstore, in which players attempt to acquire chains of... you've guessed it... high street stores. Small print on the side of the box indicates that the game is produced by Sears. But, unfortunately, further detective work revealed that this referred to one Ronald Sears, and not the Selfridges-to-Mappin & Webb empire at the centre of bid speculation.



"Looks like a late bid for British Caledonian"

Bonus of contention

When a company is swallowed by a predator, it is not only the shareholders that feel the pinch. Philip Carter of Coventry, a retired former employee of Associated Engineering, which was taken over unwillingly a year ago by the mining and engineering group Turner & Newall, tells me he has just received details of his 1988 pension. Last year, when the pension fund was still managed by AE, Carter, aged 68, received an increase of 14 per cent and a £25 Christmas bonus. Now a letter from T&N's pensions department says T&N does not give Christmas bonuses to its pensioners, and former AE employees will have to suffer the same fate. Moreover, having "reviewed the level of pensions being paid in the light of the much-reduced levels of inflation we are now experiencing," T&N says it has decided to raise pensions by the statutory "three per cent as laid down in the rules." Inflation is in fact higher than it was a year ago, a time when the old AE pensions department gave ex-employees a 14 per cent rise.

Ever wondered what all these mountains of paper sent to you by stockbrokers, companies and direct mailers actually cost? Well, in the US alone big business spends more than \$100 billion a year generating some 30 billion documents. For every dollar spent to print forms, they estimate that a further \$20 to \$80 is spent on processing, distributing, storing and, eventually, destroying them.

Carol Leonard

China expects trade surplus

By Our Financial Staff

China's clampdown on imports and efforts to boost export performance are expected to give it a trade surplus this year — its first for four years, according to Mr Zheng Tuobin, the foreign trade minister.

He was quoted at the weekend in the official *China Daily* which carried the latest trade data showing exports of \$31.7 billion (£17.13 billion) in the first 11 months of this year —

nearly 30 per cent up on the corresponding period of last year.

Imports for the full year were, meanwhile, expected to show a decline of about 10 per cent to \$30 billion, Mr Zheng said. Last year, the country showed a \$5.75 billion deficit on foreign trade.

China's deficit with Japan, which has been a large source of political irritation, is expected to show a decline this

year from the \$5 billion shortfall recorded during last year.

Moves to open up the economy and inject a degree of market-orientation into the Chinese economy had led to imports being sucked in and a rapid build-up of a trade deficit.

To correct this, Peking has deliberately held down imports, to what it considers is an essential level.

Tyrone Crystal plans a new £6m factory

By Robert Rodwell

A £6 million investment will almost double employment at Tyrone Crystal, the cut-glass manufacturer of Dungannon, County Tyrone, which is Northern Ireland's best known craft-based enterprise.

The investment, backed by the Northern Industrial Development Board was announced by Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, on a visit to the company's two factories which will be replaced by a 100,000 sq ft plant to be built on the edge of town. Construction will begin next March for occupation by autumn 1989.

Recruitment and training of an additional 119 workers, to raise employment to 246, has already begun. A feature of the new factory will be a high-level walkway through which

tourists will be able to see every stage of production.

The company was launched as a self-help co-operative in what is one of Ulster's worst unemployment blackspots in 1971 to revive a 200-year tradition of local glass making.

However, it was rescued from bankruptcy in 1980 by the Dungannon and District Agricultural Co-operative which is now its sole owner. The enterprise is now "very healthy and profitable," according to Mr Pat Killen, the managing director.

Mr King said that Tyrone Crystal had earned an international reputation for superb quality and disclosed that he invariably chose it for official gifts to guests at Stormont or on promotional tours abroad.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	8.50%
Adam & Company	8.50%
BCCI	8.50%
Consolidated Crds	8.50%
Co-operative Bank	8.50%
C. Hoare & Co	8.50%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	8.50%
Lloyds Bank	8.50%
Nat Westminster	8.50%
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.50%
TSB	8.50%
Citibank NA	8.50%



BEARER DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS

On 8 October 1987, the Ford Motor Company declared a 2 for 1 STOCK SPLIT in the form of a 100 per cent STOCK DIVIDEND on the Capital Stock of the Company to Stockholders of Record 10 December 1987. BDR's representing UNITS of 1/20th of a full common share in the denominations of 1: 5: 10: 50: 100: and 500 will be available for distribution about 12 January 1988. Special claims forms are available from, and after completion, are to be lodged with the DEPOSITARY, National Westminster Bank PLC, Stock Office Services, 3rd Floor, 20 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1EL. United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should mark payment of the "STOCK" dividend in the appropriate square on the reverse of the certificate.

All other claimants must complete the special forms and present these at the above address together with the certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

Date: 22 December 1987

If you are a holder of interim rights in respect of ordinary shares of 25p each in The British Petroleum Company p.l.c. and are in any doubt about the Share Purchase Arrangements set out in this Notice or about factors (including the market price, the effect thereon of the closing of the arrangements detailed below and the costs of dealing in the market) which you should take into account in deciding whether or not to participate in these arrangements, you should consult your stockbroker, bank manager, solicitor, accountant or other professional adviser.

SHARE PURCHASE ARRANGEMENTS

by the

BANK OF ENGLAND

in relation to

interim rights in respect of

ordinary shares of 25p each in

The British Petroleum Company p.l.c.

at 70p per share

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced on 29th October, 1987 that arrangements had been made under which the Bank of England would stand ready to purchase partly-paid BP shares at a price of 70p per share.

The Bank of England undertakes under these arrangements (the "Share Purchase Arrangements") to purchase, on the terms and subject to the conditions set out below, interim rights ("Partly-Paid Shares") being rights (and related obligations) to acquire from The Lords Commissioners of HM Treasury ordinary shares of 25p each in The British Petroleum Company p.l.c. ("BP") as described in the prospectus dated 15th October, 1987 containing listing particulars in relation to BP.

The Share Purchase Arrangements are open to holders of Partly-Paid Shares whether acquired under the offers described in that prospectus (the "Offers") or pursuant to the underwriting of the Offers or otherwise.

**THE SHARE PURCHASE ARRANGEMENTS WILL CLOSE AT 3.00 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY, 6th JANUARY, 1988.**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ARRANGEMENTS

Consideration

The consideration for each Partly-Paid Share in respect of which a valid acceptance of the Share Purchase Arrangements is received by the Bank of England is 70p free of stamp duty and stamp duty reserve tax in the United Kingdom.

Partly-Paid Shares will be acquired by the Bank of England free from all liens, charges and encumbrances and together with all rights now or hereafter attaching thereto including the right to receive all dividends and other distributions declared, made or paid after the date hereof.

Closing Date

THE SHARE PURCHASE ARRANGEMENTS WILL CLOSE AT 3.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 6th JANUARY, 1988.

Procedure for Acceptance

All acceptances of the Share Purchase Arrangements must be made on the form of acceptance provided (the "Form of Acceptance"), which constitutes part of the terms of the Share Purchase Arrangements, and must be accompanied by a BP Share Offer—Letter of Acceptance ("RLA"), or more than one RLA, in either case representing the precise number of shares to be sold. Each RLA must be duly renounced by completion of Form X on the RLA or have Form X marked "Original duly renounced" by the Receiving Bank in accordance with the provisions of the RLA. The Bank of England reserves the right to treat acceptances as valid even though not complete in all respects.

An acceptance will become binding upon receipt of the Form of Acceptance by the Bank of England and may not be subsequently withdrawn.

A holder of Partly-Paid Shares who wishes to accept the Share Purchase Arrangements in respect of some only of the Partly-Paid Shares represented by an RLA must first obtain separate documents in accordance with the instructions in Paragraph 5 of the RLA.

If the Form of Acceptance and/or Form X on the relative RLA(s) is/are signed by some person on behalf of the person(s) entitled thereto, the power of attorney or other authority pursuant to which it is/they are signed must be enclosed with the Form of Acceptance.

Delivery of Forms of Acceptance

Forms of Acceptance and accompanying documents must be delivered not later than 3.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 6th January, 1988—by post to:—

The Manager, Chief Cashier's Office,
Bank of England, Threadneedle Street,
London EC2R 8AH

or by hand, in an envelope addressed to The Manager, Chief Cashier's Office, Bank of England, to any of the following:—

Bank of England:	Head Office— The Manager, Chief Cashier's Office, Bank of England, Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8AH	Branches— 55 Temple Row, Birmingham B2 6EY Wine Street, Bristol BS99 7AH King Street, Leeds LS1 1HT	Faulkner Street, Manchester M60 2HP Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE99 2BE
National Westminster Bank PLC:	any branch in England, Wales, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man		
Bank of Scotland:	any branch in Scotland		
Ulster Bank Limited:	any branch in Northern Ireland		

Further copies of this Notice (including the Form of Acceptance) will be available at any of the above locations.

All documents sent by acceptors under the Share Purchase Arrangements will be sent at the risk of the person(s) entitled thereto.

Renounced RLAs are bearer documents and acceptors may therefore wish to consider using registered post. Receipt of documents will not be acknowledged.

Settlement

A cheque in favour of the acceptor(s) in respect of the consideration due under a valid acceptance will be despatched to the person completing the Form of Acceptance or, if more than one, to the person named in Box A of the Form of Acceptance (or as may be directed in the Form of Acceptance) not later than 21 days following receipt thereof by the Bank of England. Cheques will be despatched at the risk of the person(s) entitled thereto.

Overseas Holders

No person receiving a copy of this Notice or a Form of Acceptance in any territory other than the United Kingdom may treat the same as constituting an invitation or offer to him, nor should he in any event use such Form unless, in the relevant territory, such an invitation or offer could lawfully be made to him and such Form could lawfully be used without contravention of any registration or other legal requirements. Any person outside the United Kingdom wishing to accept the Share Purchase Arrangements must satisfy himself as to full observance of the laws of any relevant territory in connection therewith, including the obtaining of requisite governmental or other consents, observing any other requisite formalities and paying any transfer or other taxes due in such territory.

Authorities

Each acceptor of the Share Purchase Arrangements who executes a Form of Acceptance irrevocably undertakes, authorises, represents, warrants and agrees:

- that the execution of the Form of Acceptance constitutes the irrevocable appointment (by way of security for the acceptor's contractual obligations under the Share Purchase Arrangements) of any authorised officer of the Bank of England as such acceptor's attorney and an irrevocable instruction and authority to the attorney to execute all such further documents and give any further assurances as may be required and to do all such acts and things as may in the opinion of the attorney be necessary or expedient for the purpose of or in connection with the acceptance of the Share Purchase Arrangements and to vest in the Bank of England or its nominee the Partly-Paid Shares the subject of such Form of Acceptance; and
- to ratify each and every act or thing which may be done or effected by any such attorney in exercise of any of his powers and/or authorities hereunder.

Governing Law and Submission to Jurisdiction

The Share Purchase Arrangements and the contracts constituted by any acceptances of the Share Purchase Arrangements will be governed by and construed in accordance with English law. By acceptance of the Share Purchase Arrangements, an acceptor submits to the jurisdiction of the English Courts.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Loss of Share Bonus

If a holder of Partly-Paid Shares acquired under the Offers sells any shares under the Share Purchase Arrangements, he will lose any entitlement which he may have to the share bonus under the Offers in respect of those shares (whether or not more shares are acquired later).

Undertakings by the Bank of England

The Bank of England will not dispose of any Partly-Paid Shares acquired under the Share Purchase Arrangements at any time prior to 30th April, 1988 except that the Bank of England may dispose of Partly-Paid Shares at any time after the closing of the Share Purchase Arrangements at a price in excess of 120p per share. In addition, if the Bank of England acquires Partly-Paid Shares which, when taken with any shares in BP held by or on behalf of HM Government, confer voting rights representing 30 per cent. or more of the votes exercisable at general meetings of BP, it will not exercise voting rights on any resolution which (when taken with any voting rights exercised by or on behalf of HM Government) represent in excess of 29.9 per cent. of the total number of votes exercisable on such resolution (adjusted to exclude votes which the Bank of England has undertaken not to exercise).

Stamp Duty Reserve Tax

The Bank of England will account to the Inland Revenue for stamp duty reserve tax on all valid acceptances of the Share Purchase Arrangements. In particular, qualified dealers (whether members of The International Stock Exchange or not) should note that, exceptionally, they need not account for stamp duty reserve tax on such acceptances.

BANK OF ENGLAND
LONDON
21st DECEMBER, 1987

BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO SELL YOUR PARTLY-PAID SHARES BY ACCEPTING THESE SHARE PURCHASE ARRANGEMENTS, YOU SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE MARKET PRICE OF THE PARTLY-PAID SHARES, THE EFFECT THEREON OF THE CLOSING OF SUCH ARRANGEMENTS AND THE COSTS OF DEALING IN PARTLY-PAID SHARES IN THE MARKET.

IF YOU ARE IN ANY DOUBT AS TO THE ACTION YOU SHOULD TAKE IN RELATION TO THE SHARE PURCHASE ARRANGEMENTS, YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR PROFESSIONAL ADVISER.

Share Purchase Arrangements by the Bank of England relating to Partly-Paid Shares in BP FORM OF ACCEPTANCE

To accept the Share Purchase Arrangements you should complete Boxes A, B and F below and sign Box C. Joint acceptors should also complete and sign Box D. You should then send this Form with the relevant BP Share Offer—Letter of Acceptance ("RLA") or RLAs to the Bank of England, National Westminster Bank PLC, Bank of Scotland or Ulster Bank Limited in accordance with the instructions set out under "Delivery of Forms of Acceptance".

To: The Governor and Company of the Bank of England

Box A PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ma or title	Forename(s) in Full	Surname
FULL POSTAL ADDRESS—		
Post Town	County	Postcode

1. I/We, the undersigned, hereby accept, on the terms and subject to the conditions set out in the Notice of the Share Purchase Arrangements issued by the Bank of England on 21st December, 1987 ("the Notice"), the Share Purchase Arrangements in respect of

Box B Partly-Paid Shares.

Note: Insert in Box B the number of Partly-Paid Shares for which you wish to accept the Share Purchase Arrangements. If Box B is not completed or contains a number which is greater than the number of Partly-Paid Shares represented by the RLA(s) enclosed with this Form, this acceptance will be deemed to apply to the number of Partly-Paid Shares represented by such RLA(s).

2. I/We enclose the RLA(s) in respect of my/our Partly-Paid Shares to which this Form relates.

Box C I HEREBY ACCEPT THE SHARE PURCHASE ARRANGEMENTS IN RESPECT OF THE PARTLY-PAID SHARES SET OUT (OR DEEMED TO BE SET OUT) IN BOX B ABOVE.

Signature	SEAL	Date
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Corporations should execute under seal.

Box D JOINT ACCEPTORS

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS The first acceptor should complete Boxes A, B and F and sign Box C. Insert below the names of the other joint acceptor(s), who must sign in the right hand column to accept the Share Purchase Arrangements. Corporations should accept under seal.

Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ma or title	Forename(s) in Full	Surname	Signature
2nd joint acceptor			SEAL
3rd joint acceptor			SEAL
4th joint acceptor			SEAL

Box E

If you wish the consideration payable to the person named in Box A to be despatched to any other person then insert in BLOCK CAPITALS the full name and address of that person in this Box and

Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ma or title	Forename(s) in Full	Surname
FULL POSTAL ADDRESS—		
Post Town	County	Postcode

Note: If Box E is not completed, the consideration will be sent to the acceptor named in Box A at the address set out in that Box.

ADDRESS LABEL

This portion of the form may be used as an address label for the despatch of the payment: the name and full postal address quoted in Box A or, if completed, Box E above should therefore be inserted CLEARLY in Box F below.

Box F

Name
Address
Postcode

IMPORTANT

Please enclose your RLA(s). Please ensure that Form X of each RLA has been duly completed and that all parts (Forms X, Y and Z) are enclosed.

Before submitting the Form of Acceptance to the Bank of England, the acceptor is advised to retain a note of the number(s) of the accompanying RLA(s).

CRICKET

Richards in clash with Indian umpire after an appeal is disallowed

Upset as Doohan is beaten

RESULTS: First round: P Baur (WG) bt D Cahill (Aus), 6-7, 7-5, 6-2; S Youl (Aus) bt I Scott (US), 5-7, 6-4, 7-5; R Fromberg (Aus) bt B Drewett (Aus), 6-4, 7-8; P Chamberlin (US) bt R Schmidt (US), 6-4, 6-7, 7-6; M Woodroffe (Aus) bt R Roe (Aus), 8-2, 7-5; B Schultz (USA) bt P Doohan (Aus), 5-1, 6-2; C Limberger (Aus) bt J Levine (US), 7-6 (7-5), 6-4; R Rasheed (Aus) bt C Saccazu (WG), 6-2, 3-6, 7-5; J Fitzgerald (Aus) bt M Kratzmann (Aus), 7-5, 6-3; J Stollenberg (Aus) bt M Schapers (Neth), 6-3, 6-7, J Stollenberg (Aus) bt M Schapers (Neth), 6-3, 6-7, 6-2.

Finishing touch is added by Rice

NATIONAL CONFERENCE					
Eastern division	W	L	D	F	A
Washington Redskins	11	4	0	379	285
Dallas Cowboys	7	8	0	340	348
Philadelphia Eagles	7	8	0	362	368
St Louis Cardinals	7	8	0	337	390
New York Giants	6	9	0	280	312

Sleep settles down to lead a lower order fightback

Batting first after their captain, Andrews, had won the toss, opener McPhee led the way with 131 in 129 deliveries as the state side amassed 484 for eight in 416 minutes off 100 overs.

McPhee was then on nine and went on to hit three sixes and 17

RESULTS: Detroit Lions 30, Atlanta Falcons 13; Dallas Cowboys 21, St. Louis Cardinals 16; Houston Oilers 21, Cincinnati Bengals 17; Indianapolis Colts 24, Tampa Bay Buccaneers 17; Kansas City Chiefs 24, New York Jets 17.

Roche resolves to stay with Fagor

Stephen Roche, winner of this year's Tour de France, Tour of Italy and the world professional road race championship, yesterday denied rumours that he was about to leave Fagor, his new sponsors, before riding for them.

Scoreboard

At the end of the day's play, Reporter said that the terms of his contract with the Board of Control would not allow him to give interviews.

Scoreboard

Moody (57) and Andrews (70) then added 109 runs in 73 minutes for the third wicket

EUROPEAN FOOTBALL

Porto hopes lifted by veteran Gomes

Gomes, Porto's captain, follows those of Artur Jorge, the Porto manager, to Matra Racing in France, and Futre to Atlético Madrid.

Top award for Gullit

Paris (AP) — Ruud Gullit, the Dutch forward, has been named European Footballer of the Year in the annual poll conducted by the French football magazine, *France Football*. Gullit, who

RACING: THRILLING FINISH TO CHEPSTOW MARATHON



Playschool top of the class again with double honours

riding him in the Gold Cup as he's improving so fast and stays so well."

Playschool is one of 30 New Zealand breds among the 45 horses that Barons trains on his

Attendances in

"I don't know what to make of Floyd" he concluded. "I

BASKETBALL

Rayner i excited by choice

All five, Irish's hand injury permitting, will, however, get another chance to impress the electors when their clubs meet

ATHLETICS

McColgan returns with easy victory

FIRST DIVISION

1 Arsenal v QPR
X Chelsea v Tottenham

1 Brentford
1 Brighton
2 Bristol R
X Bury v S
1 Chester
2 Doncaster

West Ham v Luton Not on cassette: Everton v Nottingham Forest (Sun- day); Southampton v Preston (Sunday); Wolves v Manchester United	1 Preston v York 1 Watford v Rotherham	SCOTTISH FIRST
	FOURTH DIVISION	
	1 Burnley v Tranmere 1 Cardiff v Wrexham 3 Crewe v Wolves 2 Exeter v Leyton O 1 Halifax v Bolton 1 Hartlepool v Carlisle 1 Hereford v Swans	X Aldrie v Hamilton P Clyde v Partick P Dumbarton v Celtic X Dundee v Q of O 2 East Fife v Raith X Kilmarnock v Q of Sth Not on cassette: Forth v Motherwell; Forth
SEVEN DIVISION		

[illegible]

FOOTBALL: YOUNGSTERS DO VENABLES PROUD AS TOTTENHAM WIN A HOLIDAY DERBY GAME FOR THEIR FIRST HOME SUCCESS SINCE OCTOBER

Magical moment as Waddle outwits the West Ham wall

By Stuart Jones
Football CorrespondentTottenham Hotspur 2
West Ham United 1

The responsibility for the rebuilding of Tottenham's stature is being carried increasingly in the hands of youngsters. It is not that Terry Venables is deliberately introducing a youth policy at White Hart Lane. He has been given no other choice but to throw in players of tender years and minimal experience.

Mabbutt and Claassen were injured at Derby nine days ago. At Southampton last Saturday Clive Allen was added to the list. Yesterday morning Stevens lasted for half an hour before becoming the latest victim.

All four, as well as another five casualties, are unlikely to be available for the two forthcoming fixtures at the turn of the year. But such cruel misfortune will be of little consequence, if the newcomers perform as ably as Howells, Moran and Statham, all of whom are only 19.

Howells and Moran replaced Tottenham's leading goal scorers, Clive Allen and Claassen, to form their spearhead. "They did awfully well," Venables said. "Sometimes it is better to send in two youngsters rather than one.

They had a good blend between them with the touch of Howells and the pace of Moran.

Statham came on for Stevens, who pulled a hamstring and is likely to be ruled out for a fortnight. Understandably tentative initially, he and the reliable Fairclough were to become the centrepiece of Tottenham's resistance during the closing stages, when West Ham were seeking another equalizer.

Yet Tottenham's victory, their second so far under Venables, was designed by a representative of the older generation. The contribution of Arfield, until his 35-year-old legs began to buckle with fatigue, was significant enough but he was over-shadowed by the achievements of Waddle, whose season has also been disrupted by injury.

For a dazzling free kick, awarded for Stewart's crude foul on Moran on the edge of the area, he received the congratulations of his colleagues and the praise of both managers. Remarkably, the goal, scored with a wickedly cold chip, was his first since August 19.

"Players around the world can show us a thing or two at dead ball situations," Venables said, "but that showed how good he is." John Lyall agreed. "Our defensive

wall was perfect but he has the ability to lift the ball eight foot high and then dip it. You can't stop those."

After Fairclough had nodded one of Waddle's swirling corners against the bar, Tottenham's central defender headed in a cross bent by the England winger in similar fashion towards the near post. The timing of the second strike, in the seventieth minute, was crucial. West Ham's challenge was only beginning to take shape.

It had been led four minutes earlier by another central defender, Hilton. He nudged Robson's cross to the far post and stooped to nod in the response from Cottee. Later Fairclough blocked once after he had evaded Parks and his partner, Statham, cleared off the line.

Tottenham, even without almost a full team of regular seniors, held on to pull themselves clear of their worst sequence for six years. Although they set a club record of 14 successive home victories in October, they had not won since at White Hart Lane.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: A. Parker, C. Houghton, M. Thomas, S. Hodgson, G. Fairclough, G. Stevens, (sub: B. Statham), P. Moran, (sub: S. Claassen), P. Allen, W. Waddle, D. Arfield, D. Howells. WEST HAM UNITED: T. McAllister, W. Burrows, G. Parks, P. Hodge, R. Robson, K. Owen, M. Ward (sub: G. Stroud), L. Brady, P. Ince, A. Collins, S. Robinson. Referee: J. Martin.



Heading for a fall: Tottenham's Paul Allen is unable to ride a tackle from Robson of West Ham (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Harford is centre of attention

By Dennis Siggy

Luton Town 1
Charlton Athletic 0

With the strong rumour emanating from Glasgow that Graeme Souness, the Rangers manager, plans to make Mick Harford his latest signing at £1 million, much of the interest in this tedious game centred on the tall goalkeeper's performance.

Though Luton confirmed they had heard "a buzz" from Scotland, it was denied that there has been any official approach for Harford.

In a match dominated by offside tactics, and almost devoid of shots, Harford's name, Harford still managed to catch the eye. After he had provided McDonough with an early chance, which was headed over from close range, Bolder had his first real test after 35 minutes. Harford, in full flight forward, struck the ball on the bounce from just outside the penalty area and Bolder kicked it away for a corner.

When Mark Stein crossed from the left, rarely escaped Harford held off a strong challenge to head the ball back for Wilson to score with a low drive.

Two minutes after the interval, Harford beat Bolder to an ill-judged back pass by Humphrey but his flick-on was off the target. Harford's aerial power and physical presence bothered Charlton.

Charlton, who sent on both their substitutes eight minutes after the interval, rarely escaped Luton's offside drill, a tactic that made even their own supporters restless, and Sealey had a comfortable afternoon. It was not until the 81st minute that Lee forced the Luton goalkeeper to make his first save, albeit with a tame header.

Only seconds later, Bolder had to make another excellent save, this time from a header from Brian Stein. The brother, Mark Stein, had Bolder at full length as his shot skimmed along the ground and just wide.

Donaghy was booked in the final minute - while receiving comment after fouling Bennett. LUTON TOWN: L. Sealey, T. Broadbent, R. Johnson, D. McDonough, S. Foster, M. Sealey, D. Wilson, S. Stein, M. Harford, M. Stein, A. Morrison. CHARLTON ATHLETIC: B. Bolder, J. Humphrey, M. Field, S. Mackenzie, P. Sharkey, S. Thompson, M. Stuart (sub: M. Burrows), D. Cameron, M. Smith, P. Williams (sub: R. Lee), P. Morrison. Referee: J. Harrop.

A second X-ray examination has shown that Ricky Hill, the Luton midfielder player who was carried off at Everton on Saturday, has a broken fibula in his left leg as well as damage to his ligaments. He could be out of action for at least three months.

Arsenal laid to rest again in the graveyard of dreams

By Clive White

Wimbledon 3
Arsenal 1

Plough Lane has seen its share of defeated visitors but few of its famous losers have left this ramshackle ground looking as disconsolate as Arsenal did yesterday. It was hardly surprising their championship dreams had turned into a nightmare.

Since their run of 14 successive victories, which even had Liverpool, the runaway leaders, looking nervously over their shoulders, came to an end last month, Arsenal have reluctantly discovered the other side of the coin, encountering four defeats in their last seven games.

After their reversal at home on Boxing Day, Arsenal could not afford another slip-up. But they went to Wimbledon ill-equipped physically, if not mentally, for the sort of bruising contest which awaits all comers.

Deprived of the presence of O'Leary in defence, Davis in midfield and Smith in attack, they might have considered themselves fortunate to be ahead at half-time. But two goals in the second half proved more than a handicap that it might have done in normal circumstances while a third goal against them, unpunished this season, in the 89th minute merely added insult to injury.

George Graham, the Arsenal manager, doing his best to fight back the disappointment, remarked: "They did a good blitz

job. We get criticism at Arsenal for our forward play but it was our defence that let us down today. It was poor."

The irony will not be lost upon Graham that it was the man whom he succeeded at Highbury who now plotted Arsenal's downfall. Don Howe, nowadays the Wimbledon No. 2, who admitted having no mixed feelings about the result. "We were walloped at Highbury early in the season. It shows how much we have improved," he said. And Howe joined a deafening chorus when he added: "It is Liverpool's title. They're invincible."

The bare statistics tell Arsenal's sorry story: just two shots on target and, more characteristically, just four off-side decisions against Wimbledon. Another unusual statistic was that Wimbledon committed a mere 15 fouls, though one should add that one or two went unpunished, most notably one by Wise when he stamped on Richardson's back leg in full view of the main stand and, more pertinently, of a linesman, who signalled a foul only when the Arsenal player, showing admirable self-control, retaliated with nothing more violent than a push.

However, the unwise behaviour of the Wimbledon midfielder player did not escape the attention of his manager, Bobby Gould, who described him as a "silly little boy," whose ear he had "pegged left, right and centre." There was, regretfully,

no mention of disciplinary action.

Quinn, standing in for Smith, as he did against Nottingham Forest, scored his first goal since February last season with, inevitably, a header from a cross by Rosten.

Wimbledon's answer was just to battle on, as Adams, bleeding profusely from a mouth injury after a clash with Fashanu, could bear testimony. However, all Adams got from the referee was a sympathetic smile. One had to smile, too, at the injustice in the 47th minute when the referee played on after a foul by Richardson on Wise and Cork headed in the cross by Wimbledon's "silly little boy."

It was not that Wimbledon was undeserving of an equalizer, just that we could have thought of a more suitable hero. But Wise it was to be as Cork, taking a gift of a mis-pass from Thomas, put the little mischief-maker in possession and he turned neatly to shoot past Lukic.

Wise might have twisted fate still further with another goal, as might Cork, but Lukic clung on to his header with a desperate goal-line save. A third goal, by Adams, after a perfect cross by Sanchez, was no more than Wimbledon nor Arsenal's defence - who carelessly left Jones unmarked - deserved.

WIMBLEDON: D. Bennett, C. Goswami, J. Quinn, V. Jones, E. York, T. Quinn, C. Fairweather, A. Cork, J. Fashanu, L. ARSENAL: J. Lukic, M. Thomas, K. Sansom, S. Williams, G. Catter, A. Adams, M. Foster, S. Williams, M. Wright, M. Quinn, P. Graves, K. Richardson. Referee: A. J. Bunce.

Wednesday jinx foils Derby

By a Special Correspondent

Sheffield Wednesday 2
Derby County 1

It has been a pointless Christmas for Derby, whose side down the first division has been battered by successive defeats by teams below them. Derby have not won at Hillsborough in 51 years and Sheffield Wednesday quickly exploited their ground advantage to take a two-goal lead within 17 minutes.

Wednesday started where they left off at Watford on Boxing Day, and looked determined to present their supporters with three more points. Watched by a crowd of over 26,000, the second largest at Hillsborough this season, Wednesday were all action in a thrilling first half.

Shilton, in Derby's goal, was tested by a barrage of crosses aimed at the big forwards, Chapman and West. The former England goalkeeper cut out most of the danger but was

beaten in the fourteenth minute following a corner.

With his back to goal, West tried an overhead kick, but the ball was sliced sideways for Chapman to volley his first goal of the season. Three minutes later, Shilton was at fault when stranded by a cross from Marwood, and West headed in effortlessly.

Sheffield's marauding full back, Stender, into the action with three piercing runs down the right flank, but Shilton had recovered his composure and dealt skillfully with further efforts from the forwards.

After the break, Derby showed that they were under orders to fight for the ball, and Wednesday made the mistake of trying to contain them and deny them possession. Three exciting tactics annoyed a section of the crowd, particularly a large Derby contingent, and Wednesday might have been made to pay dearly for not continuing to advance their cause.

Both County substitutes were called into action and, seven

minutes from the end, Derby won a free kick when Gregory was fouled by Meson. Gregory stroled into space on the right where he collected Callaghan's free kick. Unmarked, he switched the ball across the Sheffield goal mouth for a simple touch in by Gee.

Gee had had few opportunities earlier, thanks to the close attention of Pearson, who has clearly stiffened Wednesday's rear-guard. In the thirteenth minute, however, Gee had an angled shot pushed out by Hodge for a corner, from which Peasey then shot wide. Had Derby taken that early lead, it might have been a different story, but Wednesday were full value for their victory in the end.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY: M. Hodge, M. Stender, N. Worthington, L. Madden, J. Pearson, M. Peasey, R. Chapman, C. Callaghan, G. Meson, L. Chapman, C. West, G. Owen.

DERBY COUNTY: P. Shilton, R. MacLaren, M. Peasey, S. Clarke, L. Meson, J. Stender, M. Callaghan, A. Garner (sub: M. Lister), P. Gee, J. Gregory, D. Peasey (sub: M. Lister).

Discontent rekindled at Chelsea

By Gerry Harrison

Norwich City 3
Chelsea 0

First League goals for Fox and Goss and a penalty from Drinkell brought Norwich their best win of the season and new hope in the relegation scramble. But, for Chelsea, it was the old story - no chances, no confidence and, now, no wins now for eight games, with audible rumblings of discontent in the background.

The main talking point for the large Carrow Road crowd was the absence of Fleck, City's £380,000 signing, and Dixon, who wants to be Chelsea's next departure - Fleck because of a thigh injury, Dixon because of a stomach bug and public declarations about being over-priced and under-used at Stamford Bridge.

Fleck was missed as Norwich's new spirit forced the doors open. But Chelsea's over-worked midfield failed to provide anything appetizing for any of their front men.

Norwich, without a recognized left back and Crook's midfield influence, could have had the points parcelled and dispatched by the break. Gordon missed the simplest of chances, Wegerle cleared off the line twice, from Drinkell and Rosario, and Freestone, in goal, was kept busy.

Chelsea, with the exception of McLaughlin and Clive Wilson, looked listless and stale. They were not helped by an early injury to Dorigo, and were lucky to keep salvation in sight for so long.

The breakthrough was not long in coming after the interval. Gordon was allowed an unopposed run down the left before Drinkell and Rosario stabbed at his cross and Fox thumped it in joyfully.

Then Fox raced away down the right before crossing to the far post where Goss, a midfield stand-in, roared in to head a dramatic goal. And when Clarke brought down Drinkell, with Norwich enjoying endless possession and heading for only their fifth home win in 1987, it was left for Drinkell to score a confident penalty.

This was Norwich's second win of the holiday period, despite their injury problems. Chelsea, on the face of it, have a lot more going for them, yet seem a mile from putting it together.

NORWICH CITY: B. Goss, J. Colwellhouse, S. Elford (sub: T. Purney), M. Bowen, M. Fox, D. Drinkell, R. Rosario, R. Goss, D. Gordon. CHELSEA: R. Freestone, G. Hall, A. Dorigo (sub: S. Clarke), L. Meson, J. Wood, P. Nixon, R. Wegerle, K. Wilson, G. Durrill, C. Wilson. Referee: K. Morton.

Palace meet their match in Reading

By Paul Newman

Crystal Palace 2
Reading 3

Crystal Palace's habit of shooting themselves in the foot just as they start finding the target with any regularity cost them three vital points at Selhurst Park yesterday. Chasing their seventh successive home victory and their eighth win in 10 matches, Palace were beaten at their own competitive game by the second division's bottom club.

It was only Palace's second home defeat of the season and it came in front of their highest gate at Selhurst Park, 12,449. The previous best saw the other defeat, a 2-1 reverse against Ipswich Town, which had followed a run of six unbeaten matches.

"We don't seem to like the role of favourites," Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, said. "Ever since I've been here we've done badly when we've been expected to win and vice versa. When we won at Ipswich on Boxing Day nobody really expected it. Today's result undoes all the good we did with that victory. Reading battled and scrapped better than us and they deserved to win."

Yet for 20 minutes a Palace victory had seemed inevitable. Playing with confidence and style, they had taken the lead

after 17 minutes, the unmarked Wright scoring with a looping header from Redfern's cross.

However, a fatal complacency seemed to creep into Palace's game and Reading, whose commitment was total throughout, quickly took advantage. Defending competently and attacking in numbers when given the opportunity, they were level within 10 minutes.

Gillespie, whose searing pace had nearly denied Palace victory at Reading three months ago, made a penetrating run down the left and his cross was bundled home by the diving Jones. Nine minutes after the interval Reading went in front with an almost identical goal from the opposite wing, Madden scoring at the far post from Richardson's cross.

Cannon put Palace level after 68 minutes, heading in Redfern's free kick, but with nine minutes remaining Beavan drove a loose ball into the corner of the net from the edge of the penalty area. To add to Palace's worries, Wright, their second leading scorer, is likely to be banned for two matches after being booked again yesterday.

CRYSTAL PALACE: G. Wright, G. Seabrook, D. Barnes, G. Pennington, G. Wegerle, C. Cannon, M. Redfern, G. Thomas, P. Barber (sub: D. Bailey), J. Wright, J. Seabrook. READING: G. Gillespie, R. Mustoe (sub: M. Gillespie), S. Beavan, K. Curtis, L. Jones, D. Madden, M. Tait, S. Moran, D. Condon. Referee: M. L. James.

Millwall advance their Christmas goal rush

By a Special Correspondent

Millwall 3
Sheffield United 1

After a 15-minute period in which Millwall side had moved three goals ahead and the opposition had been reduced to 10 men, John Docherty, the club's manager, could finally manage a joke about the state of injuries which have impaired their promotion challenge. "They asked me if I needed new players," he quipped. "I said no, just buy me two more physiotherapists."

Docherty's Christmas brought him no more physics, but six points and seven goals in less than 48 hours were ample compensation.

However, Billy McEwan, Sheffield United's manager, will be itching for the new year. He ushered his players onto the pitch without commenting on the sending-off of Wilder in the 43rd minute for a crude challenge on Carter, the tricky Millwall winger.

The patience of the referee,

Keith Cooper, had been tested to the full by Kuhl, the United captain, who was booked for a similar foul on Briley 20 minutes earlier. By then, however, United were three down.

The talented but temperamental Beattie lost the ball and then apparently all interest in midfield to allow Briley to release Sheringham in the 28th minute. Sheringham, still on a high from his trouble at West Bromwich on Saturday, netted his fourteenth goal of the season with a supremely confident low drive.

Cooke, Docherty's emergency signing following injuries to Lawrence and Casarino, came to life somewhat remarkably after sustaining a concussion to head a goal from Carter's corner. And seconds later it was Cooke again, whose surge gave Briley a simple tap in.

MILLWALL: B. Horne, D. Solomon, M. Coleman, K. Stevens, D. Thompson, S. Wood, D. Byrne, E. Sheringham, R. Cooke, L. Carter.

SHEFFIELD UNITED: H. Rogers, C. Wilder, M. Pike, M. Kuhl, P. Stanfield, B. Smith, C. Morris, P. O'Halloran (sub: D. Smith), R. Cusack (sub: C. McDonough), M. Donaghy, P. Beattie, R. Cooper.

Oxford's rally causes a panic

By Ian Stafford

Queen's Park Rangers 3
Oxford United 2

Queen's Park Rangers finally recovered winning form yesterday after their run of 11 matches without a victory had damaged their championship hopes beyond repair.

However, the disconcerting manner in which they beat Oxford suggests that they may struggle to maintain their present position of sixth.

Against a team who had lost their last four games, QPR, almost centring towards a win at half-time, had to hang on grimly as Oxford threw everything into their search for an equalizer in the closing minutes.

It was difficult to believe that the QPR players who had trotted confidently back to the dressing room at the interval were the same men who later defended desperately, hoofing the ball almost anywhere, and threw their arms aloft in relief as the final whistle sounded.

Oxford also seemed like a different side after the break. Two down, after being painfully outclassed by Liverpool last Saturday, they began to play with a sense of urgency and spirit, a fact that their manager, Maurice Evans, later acknowledged.

Bardsley's 53rd minute cross from the right found Saunders who, for once eluding the impressive Parker, headed firmly past Johns to bring his side suddenly and unexpectedly back into the game.

Three minutes later a slightly fortunate goal for QPR should have finished off Oxford. Neil's low cross was met, unwittingly, by Kerslake's right foot and the ball found its way past Hucker and into the corner of the net.

But Rhoades-Brown, who replaced Mustoe in the seventieth minute, cut the lead again five minutes later with the best goal of the game. Receiving from Hebbard, he turned Neil inside out before driving firmly home from the edge of the penalty area, to set up a frantic last quarter of an hour.

QPR could thank Falco for their healthy lead at the interval, but probably also cursed him for not putting the result beyond doubt. The recent £350,000 signing from Rangers put his side ahead in the 28th minute when he volleyed crisply into the roof of the net from Bannister's well-directed header.

Five minutes later he missed a far easier chance, heading over from four yards out, only to make amends in the 37th minute by being in the right place to tap in the loose ball, after Hucker had fumbled McDonald's drive. The chance of a third goal went begging when, sent clear by another Bannister header, he shot straight at Hucker who managed, this time, to hold the ball.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS: N. Johns, W. Neil, J. Davies, P. Parker, A. McDonald, T. Falco, M. Allen, M. Falco, G. Bannister (sub: W. Finerty), D. Kerslake, K. Brock. OXFORD UNITED: P. Hucker, D. Bardsley, R. Rhoades-Brown, R. Mustoe (sub: M. Gillespie), S. Beavan, K. Curtis, L. Jones, D. Madden, M. Tait, S. Moran, D. Condon. Referee: B. Stevens.

Agana's goal provides a lift for Bassett

By a Special Correspondent

Portsmouth 1
Watford 1

Tony Agana scored an 87th minute equalizer to salvage a draw for the first division's bottom club, Watford, against their fellow strugglers, Portsmouth, yesterday.

The ball home when the Portsmouth goalkeeper, Knight, failed to reach a free kick from Porter.

Watford's beleaguered manager, Dave Bassett, danced with delight on the touchline and his relief was understandable after watching his side create - and waste - the better chances.

Connor had given Alan Ball's side a sixth minute lead with his first goal since his £200,000 summer signing from Brighton and Hove Albion. Whitehead wasted a clear chance to extend Portsmouth's lead in the 73rd minute when he failed to connect with a through pass from Horne and Watford seized the opportunity to get back into the match.

Senior and Porter carved out a series of chances and a late equalizer was no more than Watford deserved. Bassett: Portsmouth was booked for a foul in seven games for a fifth time in the Watford goalkeeper, Rees.

VOLLEYBALL

A chance for England to learn by example

By Roddy Mackenzie

England have another chance to cast an envious eye on the sport at the top level when the English Association hosts its annual women's international tournament at the Alexandra Pavilion in London this week.

England are easily the weakest team involved in the six-nation event which has attracted Cuba, the joint Olympic gold medal favourites, and East Germany, the European champions.

Ian Goswell, who will assume the main coaching duties of the English squad this week, although long-standing coach, Barry Swann, will also be involved, is aware that England cannot hope for too much.

"The national league structure hampers the development of a successful national squad," Goswell said. "There is not

enough time to get the squad together throughout the season but, even if there was, we could only really help the players with their mental preparation for a tournament such as this.

It will be February before the national squad coach will be officially installed (it may be that Goswell and Swann will work together) and with this week's tournament likely to underline the gulf between Britain and the rest of the world, the time to set future goals cannot come soon enough.

Programme: Thursday: Canada v Netherlands (6 pm); Friday: East Germany v East Germany (6 pm); Saturday: East Germany v South Korea (6.30 pm); Sunday: England v Netherlands (7.20 pm); Monday: England v South Korea (10 am); Tuesday: First semi-final (2.30 pm); Wednesday: Second semi-final (2.30 pm); Thursday: Third and fourth play-off (4 pm); Friday: Final (6 pm).

MOTOR RALLYING

Cash shortage stops Kaub from starting

Malcolm Kaub, the only Australian so far to attempt the 8,000-km Paris to Dakar Rally when he entered this year's event, pulled out of the 1988 event just four days before the start in France (Jeremy Hart writes). He decided to withdraw when a sponsorship deal fell through yesterday. "My bike was ready, I was ready, but the money just didn't materialize," he said.

The news came at the end of a week in which Kaub had forfeited all Christmas festivities to prepare his Suzuki machine in time for yesterday's and today's scrutineering in Reims.

Despite withdrawing from the rally, Kaub will ride his racing machine to Paris today "to see the start and meet a few people."

He said he would be working on the bike right up to the New Year's Day start "just in case".

HOCKEY: EXPERIENCED PRESIDENT'S XI CELEBRATE VICTORY IN THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL MATCH

Early scores beat Cheam

By Sydney Friskin

Cheam 0
President's XI 3

The annual festival match at Cheam ended in a convincing victory for the President's XI over the club in their first day of the season. The scoring having taken place in the first half.

The President, Tony Bennett, was disappointed that the number of goals scored was one less than last year, more so because one was disallowed for offside. The umpire's decision, however, was not disputed.

A gathering of about 100 spectators watched the match, which is played in memory of the late Richard Hollands, a former hockey correspondent of The Daily Telegraph.

In the first seven minutes of play the President's XI scored twice, through Cairns, from a

well struck short corner, and Williams, who rounded off a brilliant run by Newton. Williams increased the lead in the eighth minute with a short corner after which Ikwaria's first shot into goal was disallowed for offside.

Cheam, inspired by Annabel Bennett, came more into the picture after the interval and forced a succession of four short corners from which Rogers, in goal, made two smart saves off Suddell.

With Newton and Wells taking control in midfield, the President's XI held the club team under considerable pressure towards the end. They seemed to be getting a good side together again but fell short yesterday against a more experienced team.

CHEAM: J. Myers, P. Suddell, R. Chapman, A. Ring, A. Cowell, R. Mithum, M. Bennett, D. Bennett, S. Lombard, G. Arnold, R. French. PRESIDENT'S XI: D. Rogers (Pictorialist).

A Cairns (Gulldford), M. Gellimore (Richmond), B. Wells (Richmond), P. Newton (Richmond), O. McEwan (Bosworth), R. Ikwaria (Purley), R. Ogan (Gulldford), R. Bony-Jones (Purley), M. Murray (Old Dalmead), D. Wright (Dorchester), M. Hughes (D. Furniger and G. Barton (Southern Counties). © Seabrook achieved their eighth victory in the Pizza Express London League at Ditton Fields yesterday with a 7-0 victory over Weybridge Hawks. Masterton, Munisett, Francis from a short corner, and a Bownman gave Surbiton a 4-0 lead by half-time. Curry and Jolly (2) completed the scoring in the second half.

Dalmas signed up Paris (AFP) - French Formula 3000 champion, Yannick Dalmas, has signed a three-year contract with the Larrousse-Carnes Formula One team. Dalmas, aged 26, will have his first drive next April in Rio de Janeiro at the Brazilian Grand Prix.

Hogg call the tune in stirring climax

Bristol	19
Llanelli	15

Buchanan, G Jones, R Cornsbus,
Grane, M Perego, P Davies.
Referee: G Thompson (London)

play for Swinton, who are joint bottom of the first division after gaining promotion last season.

Richmond let in Eagle (twice) and Bell for tries in the first

try, and Bryant sealed the match for Bridgend in the dying mo-

that the majority of the crowd remained.

ASTON VILLA: N Spink: K Gaea. B

● Yeovil Town attracted a record 6,079 crowd for their

guard action in a 0-0 draw against Shrewsbury Town, while Mill City came from behind to

Newry Town sharing joint

ALL-STARS

Only a handful of Heineken League games were played this

[illegible]

Liverpool toast to new year with vintage red wine

By Peter Ball

LIVERPOOL'S TARGETS

Liverpool
Newcastle United..... 4

Liverpool stride into the new year with a record 21-match unbeaten run in the League behind them and an ominous 10-point lead at the top of the first division. Newcastle, whose humiliation at St James' Park in September had provided the national audience with a first glimpse of this new awesome Liverpool team, proved no more successful at halting their march this time, going down to another scintillating display.

Visiting Anfield is like stepping back in time. Yesterday the gates were closed 50 minutes before kick-off — "full" notices up 75 minutes beforehand — and both the style of football and the size of the excited audience, 44,647, recalled the game's halcyon days. If only such exhilaration were more widely available.

Newcastle could command equal support, making their important contribution to the sizeable crowd and an open, thrilling game, but they are essentially a workaday side, whatever their improvement in morale and organization since September.

They did better on this occasion, although that statement has to be seen in context. The first breach was made after four minutes and it was the kind of damaging blow any away team can do without, let alone one facing Liverpool on their own patch. Roeder and Gillespie clashed heads as they competed for Barnes's corner, leaving both *hors de combat* as the ball went out to McMahon.

Mr Key allowed play to continue long enough for McMahon, now looking more and more like an England

Liverpool, who yesterday began the second half of their 40-match unbeaten run in the League, are chasing their seventeenth League title and ninth in 13 seasons, will enter 1988 with these targets in their sights:

- Most points in season (any division): 102 (Sheff Wed, 46 matches, fourth division, 1985-86).
- Biggest championship-winning margin: 13 points (Everton, 1984-85).
- Most championship wins in a season: 31 (Tottenham, 1960-61).
- Most championship goals: 128 (Aston Villa, runners-up 1990-91).
- Only previous champions with a better record: Preston North End (22 matches, 18 wins, 4 draws) in League's first season, 1890-91.

candidate, to cut in and beat Kelly with a low drive.

Thereafter there were only a few moments when the result was in doubt. Most of them involved Gascoigne, whose lack of enough quality support did not prevent him revelling in the opportunity to display his high talent in a worthy setting.

Goddard, Mirandinha and the two full backs also had their moments and the admirable McCree, as always, covered acres in the cause. But like most of the rest of the first division, Newcastle have two or three players below first division class and against Liverpool such a handicap is not sustainable.

At times the visitors were almost reduced to admiring spectators at the pace and inventiveness of the Liverpool attacks. The sheer variety is daunting.

For a long time, however, they were unable to turn their almost embarrassing superiority into goals as chances went begging and Kelly proved equal to the demands. At half-time, with Mirandinha troubling Grobbelaar enough to bring an optimistic chorus of *Blindside* from their large travelling contingent, Newcastle could feel reasonably pleased.

That feeling lasted only two minutes into the second half before Liverpool were awarded one of those "Anfield" penalties. Aldridge, cutting into the penalty area, fell over Roeder's trailing foot and even the Kop were provoked into a chorus of "Who's the Scouser in the black?" when the penalty was awarded for Aldridge to wrong-foot Kelly.

They returned to that refrain immediately as Gascoigne went round Grobbelaar, only to see the score ruled out by a linesman's flag, and for a time it seemed Liverpool were embarrassed enough to allow Newcastle to make their contribution. After Grobbelaar had raced 40 yards to deny Mirandinha, that feeling was quelled and two superb moves sliced open the visiting defence to provide Aldridge and Houghton with simple goals to give the scoreline a true reflection of the proceedings.

LIVERPOOL: G Grobbelaar, G Gillespie, S Venison, S Nicol, R Whelan, G H. Spence, A. Hansen, P. Barrowclough, R. Houghton, J. Barnes (sub: C. Johnston, S. McMillan). NEWCASTLE: G. Kelly, N. McDonald, K. Wharmston, D. McCree, J. Anderson, G. Roeder, D. Jackson (sub: J. B. Goss, P. Gascoigne, J. Cornwell, R. Keane). Referee: J. Key.

incident, and the police were moved into that section of the terracing.

There were no further problems, and afterwards Liverpool were at pains to make light of the incident. "I think he was hit by a Liverpool scarf," Kenny Dalglish replied when questioned about it. Barnes was able to continue without needing treatment.

Barnes, who was about to take a corner, drew the attention of the referee to the

moment came in the shape of a superb turn and shot by Gynon when he looked too well covered to make use of Rice's spawdow.

If Forest needed a spur to raise their game it came when the referee declined the penalty when Glover was floored by McGrath a yard inside the box. Amazingly, a free-kick outside the area was given and to their credit Forest swallowed their protests. As it proved they gave vent to their feelings in a far better way.

After the help of those two mistakes Wilson tapped in the 81st minute fourth.

John Sillett, the Coventry manager, felt that his side's late capitulation was an act of suicide but acknowledged Forest's title potential.

"You do worry a little on their behalf that they have such young players but they are capable of keeping their challenge going right to the end," he said.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: S. Sutton, S. Christie (sub: G. Fleming), S. Pearce, D. Walker, C. Foster, T. Raftery (sub: P. Sparrow, N. Webb, L. Glover, T. Gynon, B. Rice).

COVENTRY CITY: S. Ogburn, S. Burrows, G. Evans, L. McCall, B. Rice, D. Pearce, D. Phillips, C. Rogers, D. Spence, J. Gurney. Referee: B. Hill.

Whiteside and escaped without admonishment.

As is always the case with games between these sides, as a spectacle the match was doomed long before an ankle had even been tapped.

United held the whiphand for lengthy spells, but their reluctance to build upon a healthy foundation allowed Everton to move forward and create by far the better of the chances.

They should have gone ahead in the 22nd minute when Turner, the United goalkeeper, left the safety of his penalty area to head the ball straight to the feet of Sharp. As Turner retreated, Sharp lobbed the ball just wide of an unguarded net.

That chance paled into insignificance when laid alongside the one squandered by Reid three minutes before the interval, springing United's outside trap to race 30 yards before firing high and wide.

● Longest unbeaten sequence in Football League history: 42 matches (21 wins, 21 draws) by Nottingham Forest, November 1977 to December 1978.

Two months ago, Liverpool were quoted at 100-1 to win the championship with an unbeaten record. Today those odds are down to 10-1. Otherwise, the championship betting is now restricted to which club will finish second. Liverpool have this season's lowest bookings among the 92 League clubs — only three.

Liverpool's start to the League Centenary season is their best in the first division but not the best in their history. In their first season (1890-91), their 28 matches in the second division produced 22 wins and six draws.

Liverpool's only defeat this season was 0-1 at home to Everton (Littlerwood Cup third round, October 29).



Wise guy: the Wimbledon winger taking the shortest route past Thomas, of Arsenal. Wimbledon won 3-1. Report, page 24

Nine more sent off in League

Nine sendings-off in yesterday's Barclays League programme took the season's total to 147 (127 League, 15 Littlewoods Cup, 3 FA Cup, 1 League Trophy and 1 Standed Cup) and the total in what is the League's centenary season are sadly on course for an all-time record.

Caldwell, of Torquay United, was sent off for the fourth time this season to maintain the worst individual record, one more than Bisset, of Bradford, whose club has now totalled six infringements since the campaign began.

Caldwell's dismissal came in the 63rd minute of his club's match against Swansea, with Coleman, from the Welsh team, joining him. He now has the doubtful honour of having been sent off twice for two different clubs (he was transferred from Chesterfield in October) in a season that has barely reached half-way.

Wilder, Sheffield United's full back, was sent off following a foul on Carter, the Millwall winger, in the 43rd minute at the Den. And half-time came early too, for Southend, of Leeds United, and Ripley, of Middlesbrough, who also left two minutes before the interval at Elland Road.

The day's earliest culprit was Bennett, the Chester forward, who went after 24 minutes at Wigan Athletic, having clashed with Hughes, the goalkeeper, while at the other end of the scale Bloomer, Chesterfield's substitute, lasted until the second minute of injury time against Walsall, when he protested over the award of a penalty.

Completing the nine, Ogle, the Aldershot defender on loan from Barnsley — was sent off in the 76th minute against Gillingham. It was Aldershot's fifth dismissal this season and they were leading 5-0 at the time.

● The fourth division match between Carlisle United and Halifax Town was postponed because of a waterlogged pitch.

COVENTRY CITY: S. Ogburn, S. Burrows, G. Evans, L. McCall, B. Rice, D. Pearce, D. Phillips, C. Rogers, D. Spence, J. Gurney. Referee: B. Hill.

Thankfully, a goal materialized after 54 minutes when a sublime pass from Robson, the England captain, was well despatched by McClair. Twenty minutes later, and after Bruce had stopped a Sharp shot on the line, McClair added a second from the penalty spot after Pointon had recklessly upended Strachan as he bore down on goal.

With their League crown slipping, Everton launched a commendable late rally which contained the afternoon's most purposeful football. Watson reduced the arrears with an angled drive 11 minutes from the end, after Sharp had headed on a Ratcliffe free kick, but it was not enough.

MANCHESTER UNITED: C. Turner, V. Anderson, C. Gibson, S. Bruce, K. Morris, M. Duggan, B. Robertson, G. Strachan (sub: R. Alcock), B. McClair, N. Williams (sub: P. Davenport, J. Olsen).

EVERTON: N. Southall, G. Stevens, N. Forster, K. Ratcliffe, D. Watson, P. Reid, T. Brown, A. Heath, G. Sharp, J. Goss, J. Wilson (sub: W. Charles). Referee: K. Hodgson.

A stirring spectacle is worthy of its ovation

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

Leicester..... 48
Barbarians..... 30

In the 78 years of this fixture neither side has scored as many as the 48 points from six goals and three tries that Leicester achieved at Welford Road yesterday in a marvellously entertaining and inventive game of rugby.

The Barbarians responded with four goals, a penalty goal and a dropped goal, scoring first and last. Indeed 18 of their points came in the final 15 minutes, which was a tribute to the persistence of such players as Collins and Ring, even if the match had clearly been won and lost long before then.

The delight of this, Leicester's 28th win in the series against the Barbarians' 36, was that the first half was as hard yet stimulating a contest as the sternest critic could wish for. Indeed the Barbarians turned round 9-8 ahead, only to see Leicester take affairs by the scruff of the neck in the third quarter.

Playing a brand of rugby which denied their opponents the barest sight of the ball they ran in four tries with a combination of strength and skill which few, if any, English

clubs can muster.

If one selects the back row as the most effective Leicester area this is not to ignore the elusive running of Buttmore and the distribution of Cusworth, who survived on an hour's sleep after attending the birth of his second daughter the previous night.

That we were in for a quality afternoon was apparent when Hare found two sweet touch kicks and Youngs a delightful grubber in the first few minutes. So it proved. Matthews stretched over for the opening score but Youngs, supporting his forwards and Evans sped in from 55 metres for the tries that gave Leicester a modest advantage. So modest, in fact, that Davies erased it just before the interval with a long dropped goal.

It is interesting to reflect on the possibility of Davies and Cusworth opposing each other for their countries at Twickenham in February. Yesterday Davies chose to give Ring his head, but the Barbarians backs never functioned as they would have hoped.

It is difficult to pick out the highlights of Leicester's overwhelming second half. Perhaps Thornley's try for its particular brand of cheek. Leicester kicked off to the undefended side, Evans passed inside to Buttmore and Cusworth and the flanker came up to take the score.

The Barbarians were further disrupted by injuries to Oliver (back) and Harrison, though England's captain hopes that

the twinge in his right knee which forced him off will not stop him playing in England's trial on Saturday.

The crowd would have loved to see Cusworth score himself and the little man came close to it before handing on to the deserving Buttmore, who was at his shoulder. Leicester's other veteran, Hare, did cross the line, since he also kicked six conversions and effected a crunching tackle on his opposite number, he will have enjoyed himself.

When Underwood joined the action to carry Leicester deep into the furthest it seemed nothing would stop a 50-point massacre, but Anderson kept his men going forwards, abetted by Matthews. Leicester's passion for the game faded and the perspiring Barbarians came at the end. But what a beginning and middle.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Youngs, Evans, Redfern, Richards, Thornley, Buttmore, Hare, Wells, Underwood. Conversions: Hare (6), Redfern (2), Matthews (2), Collins, Davies, Cusworth, Ring (6). Penalty: Ring. Dropped goal: Davies.

LEICESTER: W. Hare, B. Evans, I. Bates, T. Buttmore, R. Underwood, L. Cusworth, N. Youngs, S. Redfern, D. Richards, M. Richardson, J. Wells, P. Mann, T. Smith, P. Thornley, D. Richards.

BARBARIANS: J. Webb (Wales) and England; M. Harrison (Wales) and England; N. Hargreaves (Wales) and England; M. Ring (Portugal) and Wales; G. Hargreaves (Northern Ireland) and Wales; S. Davies (Wales) and Wales; P. O'Leary (Wales) and Ireland; P. Matthews (Wales) and Ireland; J. Underwood (England) and England; W. Anderson (England) and England; R. Collins (South Wales) and Wales; A. Macdonald (Ireland). Referee: J. West (Ireland).

Bad weather hits Sovereign

From Bob Ross, Hobart, Tasmania

Sovereign, the world's largest maxi yacht at 83ft overall, was last night being challenged at the head of the AWA Sydney to Hobart race fleet by the Sydney maxi, Gazebo.

At 3 p.m. Gazebo, formerly Ragamuffin and skippered by Syd Fisher, was less than two nautical miles behind Sov-

ereign, which had led from the start and had 126.5 nautical miles to go to Hobart.

For the previous 15 hours the yachts had been hard on the wind in a sou'wester of up to 27 knots and lumpy three-metre seas. Third, another 9.2 nautical miles behind, was Jack Rooklyn's Apollo.

Gazebo's challenge, however, has been set back by a damaged mainsail. A photographer's plane found her sailing off the Tasmanian coast yesterday afternoon, the mainsail on the deck being repaired.

Sovereign meanwhile, was found sailing under mainsail and small headsail. The sou'wester has ended hopes of the leaders breaking the 12-year-old race record and they could be further slowed by lighter breezes on the Tasmanian coast this morning.

Two of the top yachts in the Southern Cross Cup division broke their masts yesterday about the same time (1 p.m.), and in the same area about 35 nautical miles east of Cape Barren Island off the north west corner of Tasmania.

The United States yacht Sidewinder (Randy Short), was totally dismantled and Highland Fling (Irvine Laidlaw) kinked her mast during a sail change.

Both Highland Fling and Sidewinder are motoring back to Eden, on the southern coast of New South Wales, a heart-breaking 180 miles to the north across Bass Strait, the toughest sector of the race they had just traversed.

Australia still leads with 648 from New Zealand 580, New South Wales 557, and Hong Kong, 539.

END COLUMN

Rush the poorer for move abroad

By Ian Ross

When Ian Rush strolled through the streets of Turin 18 months ago just hours after pledging his future to Juventus, it was with some reluctance that he concurred with the widely-held viewpoint of the accompanying Press entourage that he had a new world at his feet.

The feet in question had lifted an almost apologetically shy Welshman from the backstreets of Fillet into the fast lane of the modern sporting world. After his glorious years at Liverpool, the youngster who was still embarrassed when recognised in public was on the very threshold of every schoolboy's dream.

He was a working class hero, widely acknowledged as the finest goalscorer of his generation — 204 in six full seasons with Liverpool — and, after the statutory period of hard bargaining, finally sold last summer to the highest bidder for £3.5 million.

The basic, if unpalatable, fact that he never really wanted to go in the first place is, of course, irrelevant. He was, as in another Italian tradition, made an offer he could not refuse, and possibly for the first time in his life he veiled the natural instincts which had served him so well with a vision of a land of milk and honey — and long-term financial security.

Despite the faith in his own abilities and the constant reassurances of his new director, he knew at the time that he was taking a gamble, and perhaps unwittingly admitted as much when, after being shown around his prospective hill-top apartment, he said: "I think I will be able to put up with this for three years."

Everyone within the British game hoped his fears would



Rush: fined £2,000

prove groundless, such was the esteem he was held in, and yet the writing would now appear to be on the wall, albeit written in a language Rush does still not understand.

The latest chapter in an increasingly sombre tale unfolded yesterday with the news that Rush faces another hefty club fine after again angering those who believe that success on a football field is an individual rather than a collective responsibility.

Having returned home to spend Christmas with his large and close-knit family, Rush presented himself at Juventus a day late, arriving for training yesterday morning and not, as he had apparently agreed, on Sunday.

It was the third time this season he had failed to meet a deadline in a country where punctuality is of paramount importance. The response of Giampiero Boniperti, the Juventus president, was as predictable as it was swift.

"This time Rush must justify himself to me," he said while holidaying at an Italian ski resort before hinting at a fine of 5-million lire (approximately £2,000).

The unsympathetic Italian Press, who have already pilloried Rush for scoring just three league goals so far this season, were no less forthright in their condemnation. Under the headline "Rush Has Extended Holiday — Juventus Cannot Stand It Anymore", *La Gazzetta dello Sport* quoted two unnamed Juventus team-mates as saying: "He is a ghost. He is there but no one can see him", and: "Maybe he's on leave again like he is every Sunday."

This latest incident comes just three weeks after he was fined £2,500 for saying in a British publication that he would leave Italy were he ever dropped from the Juventus side.

Ian Rush will be the first to admit that he is far removed from the archetypal image of the footballing superstar. His low profile and reluctance to meet the demands of the Italian media have angered many and he, more than anyone, is fully aware that only by excelling for 90 minutes every week in the famous black and white shirt of a sporting institution can he recapture the adoration, and perhaps more importantly, the relative anonymity he always enjoyed in North Wales.

SPORT IN BRIEF

British crews dominated the women's 470 races during yesterday's rounds of the Palamos pre-Olympic regatta in Spain. Debbie Jarvis and Sue Hay won the first race of the day while Cathy Foster and Jackie Patton, the gold medal winners at the South Korean pre-Olympics earlier this year, took the winning gun in the fourth heat to make up for their disqualification from the first two rounds on Sunday for carrying incorrect numbers on their sails.

Games doubt
Tanzania, still doubtful about going to the Seoul Olympics, will be hard pressed to send any more than 10 boxers and 10 athletes. Almost all funds earmarked for international competition went into last August's All Africa Games in Nairobi. In Seoul, Soviet athletic officials held talks yesterday with South Korean Olympic authorities. Sources close to the talks said the negotiations were to draw up arrangements for Soviet participation in the Games.

One survivor
Only one of the three girls who recently started working part-time with Sue Barker, the former British No. 1, survived the first round of the Prudential British junior covered court tennis championships at Queen's Club, London, yesterday. Sarah Bentley, of Lincoln, was the winner. She recovered from a set and 2-4 down to beat Sarah Page, of Leicestershire, 3-6, 7-6, 6-1. But Emily Bond and Emma Woodhouse were beaten.

Mild spell hits events
Lack of snow around the Bavarian Alps has caused the West German organizers to postpone a nordic combined World Cup ski competition at Schonach and to give warning that three alpine World Cup events may be cancelled.

The Schonach contest has been put back from January 2 to 3 to January 5 to 6, weather permitting. A men's slalom at Bad Wiessee on January 5 and the men's downhill and Super-G scheduled for January 9 and 10 at Garmisch-Partenkirchen are the alpine events under threat. The mild temperatures are preventing the use of snow cannons.

Ford for sale
Phil Ford, the Great Britain Rugby League winger, has been transfer-listed at £120,000 by hard-up Bradford Northern. He has scored 53 tries in 89 games since September 1985.

MANCHESTER UNITED: C. Turner, V. Anderson, C. Gibson, S. Bruce, K. Morris, M. Duggan, B. Robertson, G. Strachan (sub: R. Alcock), B. McClair, N. Williams (sub: P. Davenport, J. Olsen).

EVERTON: N. Southall, G. Stevens, N. Forster, K. Ratcliffe, D. Watson, P. Reid, T. Brown, A. Heath, G. Sharp, J. Goss, J. Wilson (sub: W. Charles). Referee: K. Hodgson.